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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

19 June 1995

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

- League ‘Black List’ Said To Include Dole, Supporters *[AL-ITTIHAD 13 Jun]* 1
- League on Israeli ‘Aggression’ Against Lebanon *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

- Prisoners To Strike in ‘Major National Event’ 1
  - ’Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Hunger Strike *[Jericho VOP]* 1
  - Hunger Strike Launched at Nabulus Prison *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
  - Council of Ministers Discusses Issue *[Jericho VOP]* 2
  - ’Arafat Urges Release of Prisoners *[Jericho VOP]* 2
  - ’Arafat Pledges To Join Hunger Strike *[AFP]* 3
  - ’Arafat’s Hunger Strike Participation Denied *[AFP]* 3
  - National Forces Call For Release of Detainees *[Jericho VOP]* 4
- ’Arafat: West Bank, Strip ‘One Political Entity’ *[Jericho VOP]* 4
- ’Urayqat Interviewed on Negotiations With Israel *[Cairo International]* 4
- Fatah Leader Rejects Israel’s Extradition Demands *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
- ’Abd-al-Rahim Calls For International Forces Deployment *[Jericho VOP]* 5
- ’Arafat Leaves for Talks With Turkey’s Demirel, Ciller *[Jericho VOP]* 6
- Israeli Paper: ’Arafat Relations With Saddam Improve *[DAVAR 18 Jun]* 6
- Hamas Official Denies Abandonment of ‘Armed Jihad’ *[Tehran International]* 6
  - Hamas ‘Meaningless Without Jihad’ *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Jun]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

- Radio Journalist Killed in Constantine *[Paris TV]* 8
  - Minister Denounces Murder *[Algiers Radio]* 8
- Dembri Receives ROK Deputy Foreign Minister *[Algiers TV]* 8
- THE ENLIGHTENMENT Assails ‘Junta’ *[9 Jun]* 8

Egypt

- Mubarak, Qatari Amir Discuss Issues, Ties *[Cairo Radio]* 11
  - Hold Second Round of Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 11
  - Amir Discusses Arab Ties, Peace *[MENA]* 12
  - Musa Comments on Talks *[MENA]* 12
- Yugoslav Minister Focuses on Renewing Relations *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 13
- Musa Comments on Nationals Abroad, NATO, Bosnia *[MENA]* 13
- Mubarak Supports Press Freedom ‘Without Limits’ *[Cairo Radio]* 14
- Prime Minister Reiterates Support for Free Press *[Cairo Radio]* 14
- Syndicate Contests Constitutionality of Press Law *[MENA]* 14
  - Committee To Monitor Journalists *[MENA]* 14

Sudan

Commentary Alleges U.S. Involved in 'Conspiracy' *[Omdurman Radio]* 14
Al-Bashir Comments on Rebel Movement 'Plot' *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Iraq Rejects Planned Meeting on POW's, Missing *[Kuwait Radio]* 17
    Official 'Keen' on Meeting *[KUNA]* 17

Oman

Bin-'Alawi Urges Iraq To Comply With UN Resolutions *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 15 Jun]* . 18

Saudi Arabia

Joint Commission With Yemen Holds First Session 18
    Meeting Minutes Signed *[SPA]* 18
    Press Communique Issued *[SPA]* 19

Yemen

Joint Higher Committee Meetings With Jordan Held 19
    Jordan's Bin-Shakir Arrives *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
    Prime Ministers Speak at Meeting *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
    Salih on 'Breakthrough' in Relations *[Amman Radio]* 19
Salih Discusses Saudi Trip, Party Relations *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Jun]* 20

IRAQ

INA Refutes Reports on Abu Gharib Uprising 22
    Claims U.S. Media 'Manipulated' 22
    Excoriates Media 'Lies' 23
Further on Media, Opposition Reportage on 'Mutiny' 23
    Soldiers Executed; Relatives Arrested *[AFP]* 23
    Tank Battalion Personnel Detained *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 24
    Security Forces Cordon Off al-Ramadi *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 24
    Radio Urges 'Spirit of Sacrifice' *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 24
    Abu Gharib First Stage of 'Rebellion' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 25
Resentment, Disturbances in Various Areas Noted *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 25
    Regime Takes Action Against 'Chaos' *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 25
    Resistance Attack in Mosul Detailed *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 26
    Regime Evicting Kurds From Karkuk *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 26
    'Uprising' Spreads to South *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 26
Paper Hopes Ekeus Report To 'Crown' Cooperation *[INA]* 26
'Aziz Criticizes U.S. Military Presence in Turkey *[INA]* 27

ISRAEL

Rabin: 'Little Chance' of Agreement by 1 Jul *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
    Sees Elections 4-5 Months After Agreement *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Rabin: No Settlements Evacuation During 1st Stage *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Rabin Told IDF Cannot Meet Redeployment Timetable *[HA'ARETZ 18 Jun]* 29
Shahal on Border Town Security, Settler Conduct *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29

- Irish Foreign Minister Arrives on First Visit 30
  - Rejects Appeals on Orient House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
  - Peres on Spring's Orient House Visit *[Jerusalem Radio* 30
  - Peres Criticizes Call for 'Boycott' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  - Spring Meets Gur, Comments on Orient House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
  - Spring, Rabin Discuss Syria, Lebanon *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
  - Spring: al-Asad 'Optimistic' About Peace *[HA'ARETZ 19 Jun]* 32
- Georgia's Shevardnaze Arrives, Meets With Weizman *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
  - Says Georgia To Open Jerusalem Embassy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
- PA Said Controlling East Jerusalem Education System *[MA'ARIV 16 Jun]* 32
- Rabin Meets U.S. Ambassador on Hizballah Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
- Rabin Receives Reports on Syrian Action on Hizballah *[HA'ARETZ 19 Jun]* 33
- Lubrani on Hizballah 'Terror,' Syrian Inaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
- IDF Confirms Death of 3 Soldiers in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
- Levi on New Party, Plan To Run for Prime Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
  - Parties React to Levi Split; SHAS Critical *[MA'ARIV 19 Jun]* 36
  - Levi Says No Plan To Quit Likud *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36

JORDAN

- Daily: U.S. 'Lies' About Iraq Emanate From Amman *[AL-RA'Y 18 Jun]* 37
- NATO Considering Security Partnership With Country *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 17 Jun]* 37
- King Husayn Meets Yeltsin Envoy on Ties, Peace *[Amman Radio]* 37
- Prince Hasan Meets Multilateral Talks Delegates *[Amman TV]* 38
- Economist Says Market More Competitive; Data Cited *[JORDAN TIMES 18 Jun]* 38
- Exchange of Products With Palestinians Begins *[Amman TV]* 39
- Paper Welcomes Salih Remarks on Saudi Arabia Ties *[AL-DUSTUR 18 Jun]* 39

LEBANON

- SLA Stops Hizballah Offensive, Issues Communique *[Voice of the South]* 40
- Sources Deny IDF Killed 2 Hizballah Men *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
- Hizballah Official Vows To Retaliate for Attacks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
- Hizballah's Qasim Scoffs at Israel's 'Superiority' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
- Prime Minister al-Hariri on Regional Peace Issue *[Beirut Radio]* 41
- Beirut Radio Reports Pelletreau's Departure 41
- Friday Prayers Preachers Criticize Pelletreau's Visit *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
- U.S. Official Cited on Hizballah's Future Roles *[VOL]* 42
- Islamic Group Praises Iran, Denies Financial Aid *[Beirut Radio]* 42

SYRIA

- Peace 'Optimism' Result of 'Persistent' U.S. Efforts *[Damascus Radio]* 43
- Avoiding 'Overoptimism' in Washington Talks Urged *[SANA]* 43
- Radio: Peace Process 'Breakthrough' Depends on Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 44
- Inseparability of Syrian, Lebanese Tracks Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- OIC Delegation Arrives for Official Visit, Talks 46
  - IRNA Outlines Goal of Visit 46
  - Current Political Issues Viewed *[Kabul Radio]* 46
  - Delegates Meet With Rabbani *[Kabul Radio]* 46
  - Delegates, Hekmatyar View Situation *[Message of Freedom]* 46
- Anonymous Envoy Alleges Support From Uzbekistan *[Moscow INTERFAX]* 46
- UN Mission Letter Addresses Russian Bombing *[Kabul Radio]* 47
- Fighting Reportedly Spills Over Into Pakistan *[IRNA]* 47
- Radio Reports Dostam 'Sneak Attack' in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 47
- Kabul Radio Reports on 'Eliminated' Dostam Unit 47
- HCC Forces Take Supervisory Council Positions *[Message of Freedom]* 48
- HCC Planes Reportedly Bomb Presidential Palace *[Message of Freedom]* 48
  - Government Planes Bomb HCC Forces *[Message of Freedom]* 48
- Government Forces Capture 'Dozens' of Positions *[Kabul Radio]* 48

India

- Daily Views U.S. 'Misplaced' MFN 'Threat' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 13 Jun]* 49
- Minister Views Nuclear Stance, French Testing *[Delhi TV]* 49
- Editorial Views Rao's Nuclear Policy Remarks *[INDIAN EXPRESS 15 Jun]* 50
- Commentary Hails Rao's 'Fruitful' Visit to France *[Delhi International]* 50
- Minister Announces Fencing Along Pakistan Border *[Delhi Radio]* 51
- Pakistani Troops Reportedly Fire Rockets in Kashmir *[Delhi TV]* 51
- BBC Apologizes for 'Misleading' Kashmir Coverage *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 10 Jun]* 51
- Minister: Kashmir Special Status Will Not Change *[Delhi Radio]* 52
- *1994-95 Exports Reach Record Level *[TIMES OF INDIA 2 May]* 52
- *Panel Approves Foreign Investment Proposals *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 2 May]* 53
- *State Congress Leader Reddy Says NTR Corrupt *[DECCAN CHRONICLE 7 May]* 53
- Article Blames Rao for Congress Dissident Movement *[JANSATTA 9 May]* 54
- *Article Views Unfair Representation in Jammu *[THE HINDU 18 May]* 56

Iran

- Rafsanjani Views 'Abortive' U.S. Moves *[IRNA]* 58
- Velayati Addresses U.S. 'Failure,' Other Issues *[Tehran TV]* 58
- Officals, Press Comment on G-7 Summit 58
  - Spokesman Views Communique *[Tehran Radio]* 58
  - Official Views Clinton 'Failure' *[Tehran International]* 59
  - Radio Claims Clinton Behind 'Failure' *[Tehran Radio]* 60
- Industry Minister Views Trade With Iraq, U.S. *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Jun]* 60

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Pays Visit 61
  Arrives, States Purpose of Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 61
  Views Afghan Situation With Velayati *[Tehran TV]* 61
  Discusses Aid With Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 62
  Discusses Refugees With Minister *[Tehran TV]* 62
  Meets Deputy Foreign Minister *[IRNA]* 62
  Presents Message From Rabbani *[Kabul Radio]* 62
'Ashura Exercises End on 'Successful Note' *[IRNA]* 63
  Official Views Goals, Results *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Prices Given for Food, Consumer Goods *[RESALAT 10 Mar]* 64
Textile Foreign Exchange Rules Exemption Urged *[RESALAT 26 Apr]* 65
Fifty-Thousand Autos Said Produced Yearly *[RESALAT 3 May]* 66

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses U.S. Ties, Karachi Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Press Views U.S. Reaction to Nawaz Sharif Case 68
  Daily Addresses U.S. 'Surprise' *[THE NATION 17 Jun]* 68
  Editorial Cites U.S. 'Interference' *[THE FRONTIER POST 19 Jun]* 69
Leghari, Bhutto Review 'Spurt' in Karachi Violence *[Islamabad TV]* 69
Radio Reports on Karachi Shooting Incidents *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Foreign Minister Fears Indian Attack in Kashmir *[THE NATION 17 Jun]* 70
Kashmir Shrine Said Destroyed by Fire *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
  Official Expresses Grief Over Burning *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Editorial Views Second Indigenous Satellite *[JANG 28 Apr]* 71
Article Claims Government Torture of Mohajirs *[AMN 29 Apr]* 71

Sri Lanka

President Issues Human Rights Project Regulations *[Colombo International]* 72
Germany Condemns LTTE for Breaking Truce *[Colombo International]* 72
Troops Withdraw After 'Successful Operation' *[AFP]* 72
Soldiers Killed in Ambush; Rebels Issue Statement *[AFP]* 73
Muslim Villagers Said Armed Against LTTE *[LANKAPUVATH]* 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

League 'Black List' Said To Include Dole, Supporters

JN1606161795 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Jun 95 p 24

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — AL-ITTIHAD has learned that secret contacts are going on between the Arab League General Secretariat, the Arab Boycott Office in Damascus, and many Arab countries to compile a black list of names. The black list includes Robert Dole, leader of the Republican majority in the U.S. Congress, and others who support the draft resolution on making Jerusalem the capital of Israel and transferring the U.S. Embassy to it. This is in order to ban them from entering Arab countries in response to their current attempts to peddle the draft resolution in the U.S. Congress.

Well-informed sources at the Arab League said that the Arab Boycott Office has finished compiling a list which includes the names of 13 U.S. and European figures who are playing an obvious and active role in calling for making Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

The sources said that once contacts between the Arab League and Arab countries on approving this black list are finalized, the list will be adopted and distributed to all Arab countries. The Arab countries will be demanded not to hold contacts with these figures and not to extend any special invitations to them to visit any Arab country. This will continue until the draft resolution, which Dole and his supporters presented to the U.S. Congress, is dropped and until the demand for making Jerusalem the capital of Israel is abandoned.

At the same time, Arab League sources said that during the past two days, the Arab League General Secretariat asked the Arab Boycott Office in Damascus to comprehensively evaluate all Arab League resolutions on the Arab Boycott of Israel; to prepare a final report to be presented at the upcoming Arab League Council for review; and to issue joint resolutions on extending the boycott measures.

League on Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon

NC1806161095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat today condemned the repeated Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon. The Arab League said that it is deeply concerned and is following the developments in south Lebanon because of Israel's continuing aggressive military operations against Lebanese citizens.

Counselor Tal'at Hamid, Arab League official spokesman, said that it regrets Lebanon's civilian victims and it strongly condemns the continuing Israeli military operations against south Lebanon. He said that while the Arab countries, the international community, and the peace-loving forces work to see efforts for regional peace boosted, Israel takes numerous measures and adopts an aggressive policy. This reflects its true intention about the peace process and it indicates that it seeks to abort it.

Hamid said that the Arab League General Secretariat encourages the international community, notably the Security Council's permanent member states, to pressure Israel to comply with the resolutions on international legitimacy, particularly Resolution 425, which has been the basis of the Lebanese-Israeli track since the Madrid Conference of 1991. He said that the Arab League calls on the two co-sponsors of the peace process, particularly the United States, to shoulder its full responsibility toward the peace process and force Israel to implement the Security Council resolutions so that a fair and comprehensive peaceful settlement can be reached in the region. He voiced the Arab League's support for Lebanon in its heroic role in confronting the aggressive operations and in adhering to its political position for peaceful negotiations.

Palestinian Affairs

Prisoners To Strike in 'Major National Event'

'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Hunger Strike

JN1806095395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PA minister of information and culture, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Dear Listeners, brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of information and culture at the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA], will talk to you about the the beginning of the hunger strike at Israeli prisons. Good morning brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good morning. In fact this is a major national event. All prisoners — and there are over 6,000 — will today declare a comprehensive political strike to press for a solution to the detainees issue. Israel has been trying to deal with this issue in an extortionist manner. In other words, it has been trying to use them as hostages in the political negotiations and to bargain over them continuously and concerning every issue. This procrastination has been going on for over a year

— since the signing of the Cairo agreement, which provided for the release of thousands of detainees and for reconsidering the situation of the remainder of them within a short period. However, Israel continued the same behavior which led to the edge of a precipice and to detainees' announcement of a general strike. Therefore, the PNA has decided to launch an extensive campaign to support the detainees' strike at the national, regional, and international levels. Later today, brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will attend a meeting to discuss this issue, and he will announce this comprehensive national campaign. We hope that national institutions, groups, and personalities in all areas will participate effectively in this campaign. We are in touch with Arab and international organizations and institutions to urge them to play their role in this field.

[Al-Qazzaz] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, will PNA employees take part in the strike as well?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There is a call for participation on Wednesday [21 June]. At the same time, PNA employees, depending on their positions, are required to raise the issue at the popular level. What is required is not only token participation but direct action by all PNA employees.

Hunger Strike Launched at Nabulus Prison

TA1806100095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 700 Palestinian prisoners incarcerated at the central prison in Nabulus launched a hunger strike this morning.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this afternoon they will gradually be joined by the security prisoners at the other prisons and detention facilities in Israel.

Council of Ministers Discusses Issue

JN1706135595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1134 GMT 17 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with radio correspondent in Gaza 'Adil al-Za'nun by 'Arif Salim; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] Hello, brother 'Adil.

[Al-Za'nun] Hello, brother 'Arif.

[Salim] Is there anything new with regard to the outcome of the meeting held by the National Authority's Council of Ministers?

[Al-Za'nun] Yes, 'Arif. Under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority's Council of Ministers met at the Presidential Office in Gaza. The meeting was concluded a short while ago. The Council of Ministers laid great emphasis on the issue of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees held in Israeli jails. Following the meeting, Housing Minister Dr. Zakariya al-Agha said that a news conference will be held on the issue of the prisoners at the al-Shawwa Center in Gaza tomorrow. President 'Arafat will attend the news conference. Another news conference will be held on the same issue in Jerusalem the day after tomorrow [19 June].

Dr. al-Agha indicated that popular activities will continue until the release of all prisoners and detainees. He asserted that the National Authority headed by President 'Arafat supports the prisoners' cause and demands.

For his part, Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat asserted that the Palestinian stand with regard to the upcoming legislative elections is that the Jerusalem constituency must be like all other constituencies in terms of voting and running for elections. Dr. 'Urayqat added that the basic condition is the withdrawal of Israeli occupation troops from populated areas ahead of the upcoming legislative elections.

The local government minister pointed out that the gap between us and the Israelis on redeployment is still wide.

The Council of Ministers debated a host of important issues, chief among which is the status of the negotiations with the Israeli side on various issues.

'Arafat Urges Release of Prisoners

JN1806141195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has urged the Israeli Government to accurately and honestly carry out what has been agreed upon, foremost of which is the release of all the Palestinian prisoners and detainees from the Israeli occupation's jails.

At a new conference he gave along with several ministers of the National Authority at al-Shawwa Educational Center in Gaza this morning in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, President 'Arafat said that everybody should enjoy peace, referring to the 6,000 prisoners, including women and young people, who were imprisoned in violation of international laws.

President 'Arafat also said that more people are being imprisoned for trivial reasons and that a number of these prisoners should have been released eight months ago in accordance with the accord. He regretted the failure of the Palestinian-Israeli Ministerial Committee formed to deal the prisoners issue to achieve any progress. President 'Arafat then announced that Wednesday would be a day of a general national strike in solidarity with the prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons.

Asked by reporters, President 'Arafat said that the Israelis are exploiting the security issue to avoid the accurate and honest implementation of the accord. He added that there is a security loophole in the other side, asserting that Palestinian security organs have seized Israeli documents and blank identity cards in the strip. President 'Arafat called on all the popular organizations and the national institutions to back the prisoners' demands. He stressed that the Palestinian land is one political and geographic entity.

Regarding wanted Palestinians outside the homeland, President 'Arafat stressed that they would return gradually. He praised the position of the countries, which backed the Palestinian people against the U.S. veto in favor of Israel's decision to confiscate Palestinian lands in Jerusalem.

'Arafat Pledges To Join Hunger Strike

NC1806151095 Paris AFP in English
1425 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 18 (AFP)— PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has pledged to be the first to join hunger strikers trying to win the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners, officials said Sunday [18 June].

'Arafat told a crowd of about 1,000 people at a funeral for a senior Palestinian figure in Gaza: "I will be the first to join the hunger strikers," a PLO official told AFP.

The PLO leader on Sunday launched a huge campaign to win the release of the 6,500 prisoners still being held in Israeli jails, according to Palestinian rights groups.

Some 700 prisoners in Junayd jail close to Nablus on Sunday began their hunger strike, and detainees in other prisons were to follow in a staggered campaign, prisoners' associations said.

'Arafat said he and all the Palestinians were to go on a general strike on Wednesday.

"In the name of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian strugglers and the Arab nation, I ask the Israeli Government to quickly free the prisoners.

"We are not asking for the moon, we are asking for an honest, accurate implementation of our agreements, and at the head of that the release of our loved ones from Israeli jails."

Former PLO representative to Washington Anis Barghuti told AFP Sunday that he had heard 'Arafat make his pledge but he was unsure exactly what kind of action was planned on Wednesday.

Israel has released about 5,000 prisoners since the signing of the 1993 Declaration of Principles.

'Arafat's Hunger Strike Participation Denied

NC1806180595 Paris AFP in English
1725 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 18 (AFP)—A Palestinian official Sunday [18 June] denied that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat would join hunger strikers in a campaign launched to win the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani told AFP the PLO chief "is dedicated to the prisoners' cause, but he doesn't have to go on hunger strike to show he is serious."

Earlier, a PLO official told AFP that Arafat had told a crowd of about 1,000 people at a memorial service for a senior Palestinian figure in Gaza: "I will be the first to join the hunger strikers."

Kanafani explained that 'Arafat was "joining the strikers by supporting them, feeling with them."

The PLO leader on Sunday launched a huge campaign to win the release of the 6,500 prisoners still being held in Israeli jails, according to Palestinian rights groups.

Some 700 prisoners in Junayd jail close to Nablus on Sunday began their hunger strike, and detainees in other prisons were to follow in a staggered campaign, prisoners' associations said.

'Arafat said he and all the Palestinians were to go on a general strike on Wednesday, without saying whether it would include a hunger strike.

"In the name of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian strugglers and the Arab nation, I ask the Israeli government to quickly free the prisoners.

"We are not asking for the moon, we are asking for an honest, accurate implementation of our agreements, and at the head of that the release of our loved ones from Israeli jails."

Former PLO representative to Washington Anis Barghuti told AFP Sunday that he had heard 'Arafat make his pledge but he was unsure exactly what kind of action was planned on Wednesday.

Israel has released about 5,000 prisoners since the signing of the 1993 Declaration of Principles.

National Forces Call For Release of Detainees

JN1706080095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The national, Islamic, and popular forces and organizations in the Gaza Strip met yesterday evening and adopted a comprehensive plan of action to support the demands of the Palestinian detainees in the Israeli occupation jails.

The political forces decided to form a committee called the General Committee for Supporting and Bolstering the Detainees [al- lajnah al-'amah li-da'm wa-musanadat al-mu'taqalin] and called for the immediate release of all detainees.

'Arafat: West Bank, Strip 'One Political Entity'

JN1606155595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed the need for Israel to honor the I July deadline as a final date for reaching an agreement on redeployment and the legislative elections. He said that to us, the Palestinian conditions are basic, and urged the Israelis to comply with a specific timetable.

In a speech he delivered after the Friday prayers in the al-Katibah Mosque in Gaza, President 'Arafat added that Jerusalem was not a subject of bargaining and that no one of us would relinquish any particle of Jerusalem soil. President 'Arafat asserted that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are one political entity and that attempts to give an island here or there are unacceptable.

In his speech, the president also spoke about the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. He said an agreement should not be reached while our brothers are still in prison. He reiterated that our position toward this important issue was decisive, and regretted the failure to release our detainees six months ago in accordance with the agreement. President 'Arafat noted that the Palestinian people are passing through a sensitive, decisive, and historic stage and asserted that we would abide by what we have signed just as the prophet did in the al-Hudaybyah truce. He praised the world's support for the Palestinian people's demands and their just cause, noting that 14 Security Council member states opposed the U.S. veto of an Israeli decision on Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat received Knesset Arab members 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawishah and Talab al-Sani' at the Presidential Office in Gaza this afternoon. Talks centered on the latest developments in the peace process, particularly those pertaining to the I July deadline. He stressed the need to press Israel to abide by that date. President 'Arafat thanked Darawishah and al-Sani' for their efforts in the peace process.

'Urayqat Interviewed on Negotiations With Israel

NC1806073195 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Jericho, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Aswad] It is clear that the current activity in the Palestinian arena comes before 1 July, which is the famous target day on which the Israeli Government must complete the agreement with the Palestinian side on the elections, the transfer of powers, and the redeployment of the Israeli forces. Is there a connection between this activity and the approaching date of 1 July?

['Urayqat] [passage omitted] All this activity revolves around 1 July and the need to achieve an interim agreement by that date. Parallel negotiations are taking place on redeployment, elections, and the transfer of powers. Negotiations on the transfer of powers are expected to resume in Cairo Tuesday. Negotiations on the elections and redeployment are continuing here.

The real problem in the negotiations is the redeployment of the Israeli forces. To clarify matters, we say there is a gap caused by the Israeli stance. If we go back to the Declaration of Principles, we see there are clear terms of reference clearly stating that the Israeli forces will redeploy outside all populated areas in the West Bank. In other words, the Israeli forces must evacuate all populated areas. They also must evacuate camps, government buildings, prisons, and all facilities run by the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] in all its branches, including the police, the border guard, and intelligence services. This departure or withdrawal must be irreversible. [passage omitted]

We are not negotiating a new agreement. The agreement was signed in September 1993 in Washington. We are trying to find a mechanism for implementing this agreement. Therefore, we will not hold the elections as long as one single military base remains in any populated area in the first phase of redeployment. This is the main issue. There is also the issue of the detainees. We say that all Palestinian detainees must be freed without distinction as a prelude to any interim agreement. There is Israeli procrastination in this regard. [passage omitted]

[Al-Aswad] President Yasir 'Arafat has rejected any Israeli attempt to give the Palestinians isolated areas in the West Bank that will later become new closed self-rule areas. Can you tell us what President 'Arafat means by this, and does it mean that there are Israeli offers in this regard?

['Urayqat] Allow me to say that there are Israeli attempts to skirt the agreement signed in Washington. When we say the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are one geographical unit, it means they are indivisible and must not be separated by roadblocks or by changing them into small cantons. Our aim is to adhere to the Declaration of Principles, which says that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are one geographical unit which must be maintained during the interim period and not undermined by any other agreements. Therefore, the president's warning is in place. This is because if Israel is thinking of dividing matters and imposing a fait accompli as it did in the Jericho agreement, by which it isolated Jericho from the rest of the West Bank with roadblocks, this will not be accepted at all. We want all the areas to be evacuated by the Israeli army, to have geographical continuity. We do not want military roadblocks at the entrances to towns, villages, and refugees camps. Israel has always used security pretexts to place these roadblocks here and there.

Fatah Leader Rejects Israel's Extradition Demands

TA1706112195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Jun 95

[Report by Dani Zaqen — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, a leader of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, rejects Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir's recommendation to make the release of Palestinian prisoners conditional on the extradition of people who murdered Israelis. 'Abd-al-Raziq says these people are not murderers, but fighters whose past must be forgotten. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Raziq] When a political agreement is reached, the past must be left behind. I am surprised that the attorney general is asking the Palestinian Authority to extradite men we consider to be fighters for the freedom of our people. [end 'Abd-al-Raziq]

According to 'Abd-al-Raziq, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is the man who gave the orders for the struggle against Israel and who signed the agreement with it. Therefore, we should forget the past and concentrate on the present and on the peace. [passage omitted]

Israel's political level is probably not pleased with the fact that this problematic issue is being raised at this of all times, shortly before the expected signing of the agreement on the interim arrangement.

'Abd-al-Rahim Calls For International Forces Deployment

JN1706160295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1312 GMT 17 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Presidency, by Ibrahim Milhim; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Milhim] Abu-al-'Abd ['Abd-al-Rahim] good afternoon.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good afternoon, welcome Brother Ibrahim.

[Milhim] What subjects were discussed at today's meeting?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The Council of Ministers' meeting ended one hour ago. A number of issues were on the agenda, including the political and security situation, the negotiations on the transfer of powers and elections, and the meeting between Minister of Justice brother Furayh Abu-Middayn and the Israeli justice minister. The council gave prominence to the question of prisoners, differences between the municipalities and the rural councils over water and electricity prices, and other issues. [passage omitted]

As for the political situation, brother president...[pauses] In fact, and despite the optimism expressed by many people, there is nothing that calls for optimism regarding Israeli seriousness to reach an agreement on the transitional stage, which is based on three principles — redeployment, elections, and the transfer of powers. So far, no serious ideas have been presented to us on this subject, especially regarding Area B, which is the area between the Palestinian populated areas and the Israeli settlements on which talks have been deferred until the final status.

The Israelis justify their hardline position by security considerations. If they continue to use this security complex and if they continue to repeat it, this means that matters will become so complicated that only God will know how to resolve them.

[Milhim] Then, it can be said that the 1st July deadline is not sacred?

['Abd-al-Rahim] It will not be a sword over our necks, but this deadline should be sacred for the Israelis to present a concept that is in line with the Declaration of Principles on redeployment. Therefore, we discussed at the Council of Ministers today the subject of international forces in Area B if the Israeli side continues to have this security complex.

We are ready to accept international forces from the United States, Canada, Australia, the European Union, Sweden, Norway, and Turkey. The international forces have proved to be successful in most world countries although the Israeli side says that this experiment did not prove serious in Yugoslavia. However, in Namibia, Angola, in Egypt... [pauses] Now the idea of international forces in the Golan is presented. So why cannot this step be right for the Palestinian track.

[Milhim] What is meant by Area B?

['Abd-al-Rahim] As I said, Area B is the area between the populated areas and the settlements. These are the areas outside populated areas. We say that the Palestinian geographical jurisdiction should be applied over this area, both the land and the population. Elections cannot be held in the absence of a Palestinian authority in these areas. There should be a Palestinian authority in these areas and not only an absence of occupation. This authority should maintain public order, and justice and law should be in its hands. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Leaves for Talks With Turkey's Demirel, Ciller

JN1906100895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has left the homeland for Ankara where he will meet with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Grand National Assembly Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk, and leaders of the Turkish political parties. President 'Arafat will be granted an honorary doctorate from the Turkish Regazi [name as transliterated] University in the presence of university presidents and a number of Turkish officials and academicians.

Israeli Paper: 'Arafat Relations With Saddam Improve

TA1806100495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Government has resumed financial aid to 'Arafat, which gives him room to maneuver against the opposition supported mainly by Syria and Iran, our correspondent was told by Palestinian Authority [PA] sources.

Two weeks ago, during his visit to Amman, 'Arafat visited the Iraqi Embassy and sent a letter to Saddam Husayn thanking him for the aid.

The sums actually paid are not known, but they give 'Arafat an advantage because the Iraqi aid money is not subject to the World Bank terms which leaves 'Arafat with the kind of maneuverability he was accustomed to before the PA was established.

Saddam-'Arafat relations grew very warm during the year before the Kuwait crisis, and the Palestinian leader was Saddam's main ally during the crisis. After the political process started, however, the relations cooled, but have recently warmed up again.

Last month, PLO Ambassador in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad met Saddam Husayn twice. Saddam told the ambassador that the Iraqi policy regarding the Palestinian issue is based on respect for the wishes of the Palestinian nation and its national leadership, the PLO. He said that Iraq will aid the autonomy institutions and continue training and financing the al-Aqsa Brigade that stayed in Iraq.

Our correspondent adds that the pro-Iraqi Arab Liberation Front returned to the autonomy area when it was first established and has since supported 'Arafat.

Hamas Official Denies Abandonment of 'Armed Jihad'

NC1706182495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Representative of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas in Tehran has denied allegations promoted by Zionist and pro-'Arafat media that the movement intends to abandon armed jihad and change to a political party. He said that armed resistance is the practical way to restore Palestinian rights from the Zionist usurpers.

In a telephone conversation with the Islamic Republic News Agency, mujahid Abu-Hamdan said the fabrications made by the Zionist and 'Arafatist media are part of a joint effort to discredit Hamas. He stressed that the movement stopped its talks with 'Arafat's group about a month ago. He said that Hamas set four conditions for negotiations with the so-called self-rule government. They are: Releasing all prisoners in Gaza and Jericho; abolishing the Palestinian state security court and repealing all its rulings; rescinding the decision to ban the Palestinian groups from carrying arms; and refraining from condemning jihad operations carried out by these groups.

Hamas 'Meaningless Without Jihad'

MM1906125695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Meaningless Without Jihad; We Will Not Reveal Whereabouts of al-'Alami and Abu-Marzuq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has denied that it promised the Palestinian Authority to suspend its military and armed activities on the eve of the Israel Army's redeployment in the occupied West Bank. It also remained silent about the whereabouts of two of its leaders who were expelled from Amman recently.

[Hamas Spokesman] Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah told AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT yesterday that Hamas is a strategic option and a fundamental and major program. Because the resistance and jihad program is the only program capable of influencing the Zionist occupation.

Ghawshah was commenting on statements attributed to Zakariyya Ba'lushah and 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Sirdanah during their visit to Ramallah, in which they said that they had made contacts with Hamas, resulting in a promise from it to the Palestinian National Authority to suspend its armed activities in the area on the eve of the Israeli forces' redeployment.

Ghawshah stressed that his movement would be meaningless if it abandoned the resistance and jihad program. He pointed out that the prisoners of four Palestinian factions have begun a hunger strike in Junayd Prison in Nabulus. This hunger strike will extend to the other Zionist jails and detention centers in order to demand [an end] to the tragic situation experienced by the detainees in Israeli jails.

Ghawshah said that their comrades in the other jails are expected to join them. He pointed out that the four factions whose detainees have launched the strike are Hamas, the Islamic Jihad Movement, the "General Command for the Liberation of Palestine," and Fatah-the Uprising. He added: We in Hamas condemn the attempts that followed the meeting between Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Sha'th, which are aimed at splitting the Palestinian Islamic movement, namely by separating PLO detainees from other detainees in preparation for releasing PLO detainees.

He said that Hamas stressed national unity among prisoners. He urged the Arab and Islamic nations to support their cause without any discrimination and without undermining their steadfastness.

In the same context Ghawshah declined to comment on official Iranian reports denying the arrival in Iran of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and 'Imad al-'Alami, who were expelled from Jordan two weeks ago. He said: "We in Hamas are not required to provide information about the movements of brothers Abu-Marzuq and al-'Alami for security reasons."

Algeria

Radio Journalist Killed in Constantine

LD1806105295 Paris LCI Television in French 1000 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was another killing in Algeria this morning: A journalist from the Constantine local radio station was killed. Ahmed Tacouchet was just 30.

This year 12 journalists have been killed in Algeria so far.

Minister Denounces Murder

LD1806155995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last night, in Constantine, the journalist and radio broadcaster Ahmed Tacouchet, alias Hakim, was murdered by a terrorist group of four persons. The victim was kidnapped from his house yesterday evening and was found with his throat cut this morning. [passage omitted]

Communications Minister Lamine Bechichi has denounced the murder. He said:

[Begin Bechichi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Once again, as everyone can see, criminal hands have inflicted another blow on the people working in the information sector by taking away one of its members. Nonetheless, the sector will continue its endeavor regardless of the schemes of the criminals.

Hakim was killed yesterday by those people who wanted to shut him up. However, the Voice of Cirta [local radio] will continue to be heard in order to emphasize the contributions of the historic city of Constantine and its inhabitants to Algeria's relentless march forward.

As far as I am concerned, and on behalf of all employees of the media sector in general, and announcers in particular, I would like to say that I am very proud of this excellent announcer and I can only reiterate my condemnation of the barbarian and wanton criminals, beseech God's blessing for the victim's soul, and convey my sincerest condolences to his family. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Dembri Receives ROK Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1706212495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri received Pak Ki-mun, South Korean deputy foreign minister and special envoy of President Kim Yong-sam. The South Korean envoy gave our foreign minister a message from the South Korean head of state for Head of State Liamine Zeroual. The two ministers discussed the present position of Algerian-South Korean relations.

THE ENLIGHTENMENT Assails 'Junta'

MS0906140095 (Internet) Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 9 Jun 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] supporters in Europe" — received via Internet on 8 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]**Editorial**

Is there a credibility left for those suffering from mythomania?

Praise be to Allah who says: "Allah is the protector of those who have faith, from the depths of darkness He leads them forth into light. Of those who reject faith the patrons are the Tagut from light they will lead them forth into the depths of darkness. They will be companions of the fire, to dwell therein (for ever). (Koran, Surat Al Baqarah, 2:257).

A year ago the Junta interior minister Mr Meziane-Cherif has "issued" ("distributed" will be a more proper word to use) a document in which lying was made licit and its use codified in great details. No room was left for improvisation, even the terminology was predetermined by the Junta bureaucrats who must most probably have read somewhere in the PRAVDA library that "who controls the language, controls the thoughts"!

The document dated the 7/6/94, was addressed to the "Algerian media" and in which Mr Meziane-Cherif informed them that from then on, they will all be under the orders of the "communication cell" which has office in that ministry but is run by the secret police (la S.M). Besides this new hierarchy, a pack of "recommendations" was distributed to the Algerian journalists.

The following are some of these "recommendations" as published in the French newspaper LE MONDE of the 29/06/94.

— The interior ministry is the only source of information for all matters that the authorities judge as of a "security nature" such as "military operations", "sabotage", armed confrontations and executions.

— It is "recommended" to present news about "terrorists" and "subversive" acts as banal as possible. And to avoid amplifying their results.

— An appropriate terminology will be distributed soon. It should be used in all cases.

— It is "recommended" to treat the news of "security nature" (Mujahidin actions they mean!) not in the front page but inside. Exceptionally and because of importance or the novelty of the news, it can be published on the first page but in a reduced space.

— On the other hand, it is strongly "recommended" to emphasis on the "unhuman and barbaric practice" aspect of the "terrorists". And to stress on:

— The "adversary loss" and on the "cowardness" of those arrested.

— The heavy sentences they are about to receive.

— The "efficiency" of the "security forces".

It is also "recommended" for "editors and responsible of the national press" to avoid "diffusing articles or news of a security type related to Algeria and published by foreign press". "It is also advised not to publish any information or declaration which may affect the anti-terrorist fight or the moral of the security forces, be it from persons or association political or other, national or foreign". (End of the "recommendations")

To get some useful information from any sources related to the Junta, one needs to look at it through corrective filters in order to disregard the distortion effect of the above "recommendations" screen.

In a "large" interview published by the London based newspaper EL HAYAT last Friday (02/06/95), the same personage — Mr Mezian-Cherif — has taken the opportunity to paint to the international audience a "surrealist picture" of the Algerian situation.

Can Mr Mezian-Cherif be believed when he says that "only" 12,000 people have died in the conflict while international observers give the few months old number of 30,000 people, the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, the number of more than 40,000 and the FIS a number of more than 50,000?

Can Mr Mezian-Cherif be believed when he says that there are only 3,000 or 4,000 Islamists in the Junta jails when other sources speaks of ten of thousands?

Can Mr Mezian-Cherif be believed when he says that there are only two or three thousands active armed mujahedeen? Can Mr Mezian-Cherif be believed when he says... and says... and says..

As the Algerian people have totally lost trust or believe in the regime, the Junta propaganda started to have a reverse effect on the public. The people in their thirst of news began to read the information in an inverted mode; What is shown as ugly is beautiful, few is many, quiet is agitated and so on.

The urge of the Generals valets to please their masters is so strong that most of the time their declarations, if read in between the lines or in an "inverted mode" would provide useful information that the Junta wants to camouflage by any means.

Reading the Junta officials declarations "CORRECTLY"!

Following are some recent declarations made by the Junta officials for the international opinion consumption and their appropriate "translation and reading". Mr Dembri, the head of the Junta diplomacy.

Declaration:

— Speaking from London on the 06/04/95, Mr Dembri the head of the Junta diplomacy said that all the main political parties have made a u-turn and have engaged in talks with the Junta therefore turning their back to the "National contract" signed in Rome.

Proper reading:

- Yes Algeria is going towards an antagonistic and conflicting bipolarisation! On one side the coalition of the Algerian political opposition (those who represent real people other than their own immediate families!) and on the other side the military Junta! Mr Mezian-Cherif, the Junta interior minister.

(AL-HAYAH, 02/06/95).

Declaration:

— "We need between 8 to 15,000 soldiers from the reserve contingents for the presidential election operation which is programmed at the end of the year. But given the administrative problems resulting from the lack of experience of such operation..."

Proper reading:

— Remember when I said few weeks ago that we are going to raise an army of 50,000 armed militia under the respectable name of "council police", honestly we could not raise more than 13,000 mercenaries (and just between us... even this number is largely exaggerated but...). We do not understand why we couldn't. Didn't we gave them a salary higher than a university professor's? But no way... I am going to tell you a secret but please... the army has decided that the only way to diffuse its internal boiling against its Generals is to secure the life of their active soldiers by putting a buffer between them and the "terrorists" that is why they have called the reserves. The soldiers are also asking for better protection and that is why they have bought the Turkish armored scout vehicles Scorpion.

Declaration:

— The terrorist activities started in 1993 and there are about 12,000 victims from both sides.

Proper reading:

— I know that the actual situation is a direct result of the military coup of the 11/01/92, but we want to make the public opinion think that there is no relation between what is going on now and the elections of December 1991. May be we can make them forget the FIS and lift off the political cover from the ongoing struggle.

Declaration:

— to the question: Have you officially asked from international organisations to provide observers for these elections (presidential)?

Answer:

— "We haven't sent official invitations yet, but we have made the decision. We may ask the United Nations to participate in the observation, but this is based on the availability and schedule of the UN. And there are other organisation such as the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab league. We have not decided whom are we going to invite yet."

Proper reading:

— I have talked before about the administrative problems, you should understand that there is no way that the elections are going to take place before the end of the year like it was said that is why we are already searching for excuses. Concerning the observers it is our last worry. What we know for sure is that UN will not take part as a real observer in case the elections will ever take place. And if they do, one or two phone calls to Mubarak (Egypt) Zine El Abbidine (Tunisia), Al-Qadhdhafi (Libya) and few other "democrats" like them in Africa such as Generals X ,Y and Z... we will have as many observers as we like from the African organisation and the Arab league at the same time.

Declaration:

— "...and we have moved them to Algiers (Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj) and we set three of their colleagues free, and we have given them the freedom of receiving visitors and contacting the TV. But they were surprised to find that they were surpassed by the militants at the base and that they were not obeyed any more."

Proper reading:

— When I said We, I mean them the Generals, because this thing is well above any civilian servant but anyway, about the freedom to use TV... well I made it up... showing recent pictures of Abassi Madani or Ali Belhadj can be an act of subversion you know... but I suppose that your readers do not watch Algerian TV so who will notice? They were taken to an unknown place this time because in just few weeks of limited contact with the outside world, they were back to their task of leadership and their aptitude of reuniting the "terrorists" is still very powerful. Even the mighty Generals do not know what to do with them, they can not corrupt them like normal people, they can not scare them and they can not kill them... that will make them eternal Martyrs!

Important note: The French news agency AFP has reported the above interview of Mr Mezian-Cherif and added something important that the junta interior minister DID NOT SAY. The added part was related to the Islamists prisoners where the AFP added that Mezian-Cherif said that the majority of them was from the GIA [Armed Islamic Group] or AIS [Islamic Salvation Army]. In the original interview of Al Hayat that was not said. Every one knows by now that the Junta has been pursuing a policy of shot to kill against the Mujahidin since the "historical" trip to Paris of General Lamari nine months ago and that the majority of those in the sahara concentration camps have been their since January 1992.

The Junta embassy in London

Concerning the compromising letter reveal by the Algerian Community in Britain last week. (AL-HAYAH of the 04/06/95) Declaration of the Embassy Press attache (1): — The letter is a forgery. We have stopped using the French written embassy stamp since the eighties. And the name and signature of the Ambassador have taken from another letter.

Proper reading:

— Yes the official embassy stamp is in arabic but I do not know who has kept the old one and why. Could it be that arabic version is used officially and the other for underground purposes or could it be that someone from inside the embassy is... well I don't want to speculate any further... I have been told to answer you that way but in reality this is well above me. (1) The declaration was made by the embassy Press attache himself, not his attache or his secretary or the secretary of his secretary or his chauffeur or his chauffeur assistant or his accountant or the secretary of his accountant or anybody else from the "over stuffed" embassy!

Did the Junta propose to the Israelis a cooperation in fighting Islamists?! The Algerian anti-Islamist newspaper AL-WATAN will go "down" in history

as being the first to go to Tel Aviv and interviewed Shimon Peres the israeli foreign minister last week.

Shimon Peres declared: "There has been a contact or two with the Algerians, but the Algerians have immediately denied it. I fell sorry for that but I do not understand why."

The Junta ministry of foreign affairs was quick to deny once more any contact between the Algerians and the Israelis.

In January, the Junta ambassador in Austria Mr Halim Benatallah has also denied that the Junta has proposed to the Israelis to "cooperate" with them in the war against Islamist and "Terrorism" as has been reported by the Tel Aviv newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Some observers are convinced that the Junta has always been ready to cooperate with the devil in its war against Islamists particularly if it offers a positive access to the international finance and media.

The use of babies to indoctrinate and spread hatred!

During the celebration of the international children day, the Junta radio has put in the air a child voice saying that her name was Samira and she was four years old. She said that when she grows up, she will join the police and buy a Kalachnikove to kill the murderers. "protect your daddies because there is death she said... there is those devils who kill with knifes or with the Kalach". Samira has then told the story of her killed father. The radio did not give indications about samira's father nor the circumstances of his death but pointed out that it was the work of "terrorists" which in the Junta vocabulary means Mujahidin. This kind of child exploitation for propaganda purposes is disgusting to say the least.

The Maghreb Union: a hypocritical pretention!

The embargo against Libya has made her "sisters" Tunisia and Algeria not unhappy at all. There is apparently a savage competition between the Tunisian regime and the Algerian Junta about who is going to profit more from the hardship of Libya. The plan to open a military airport in Southern part of Algeria to the Libyans civilians has apparently made the Tunisian regime very angry.

Six more people sentenced to death by the Junta court of Injustice!

Six more people have been given death penalty by the "court of Injustice" of Annaba this time. The total number of death penalty sentences ruled these last three weeks has reached 74. It is however the first time that a defended was present in the tribunal. All the 73 sentences were ruled in absentia.

Egypt

Mubarak, Qatari Amir Discuss Issues, Ties

NC1806162695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak and Amir of Qatar Shyakh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani held a round of talks at the al-Muntazah Palace at noon today. They discussed issues of common concern, bilateral ties, the latest developments in the peace process on the various tracks, the situation in the Gulf region, and ways to expand economic cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The Qatari leader expressed his country's full support for all the efforts being made to establish a fair, comprehensive, and permanent peace for all the people in the region, especially the Palestinian people. In an arrival statement, he praised the continuing efforts President Mubarak is making to close the Arab ranks and cement Arab relations. [passage omitted]

Hold Second Round of Talks

NC1806180895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani held a round of talks this evening. The delegations of the two countries also attended the talks. The Egyptian delegation included Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Attending the talks on the Qatari side were Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Hamad Al Thani, adviser to the Qatari amir; and Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Hamad Al Thani, counselor at the Qatari amir's office.

The talks dealt with Egyptian-Qatari ties and ways of promoting them in all spheres. They reviewed Arab, regional, and international issues that concern the two countries.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the talks dealt with the Arab situation in general and clearing the Arab air in particular. They also discussed the political and economic situation in the Arab Gulf region, bilateral ties, and aspects of cooperation in various fields. He said that the opinions were identical on the issues that President Mubarak and the Qatari amir discussed. [passage omitted]

Amir Discusses Arab Ties, Peace

NC1706210395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2000 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has praised President Mubarak's leading role and earnest efforts as a leader known for his political experience and foresight.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published 18 June, the Qatari amir said coordination, contacts, and consultations are continuing between him and President Mubarak on all issues concerning the Arab nation.

He said Egyptian-Qatari cooperation on the transport of gas via the Suez Canal is one of the most important areas of cooperation between the two countries.

He said that he is optimistic that chances for realizing the objectives of the peace process will increase in a way that helps the concerned parties gain their legitimate rights and creates the right climate for all people and countries of the region to live under the shadow of a just and comprehensive peace, ensuring equal rights for all.

He said that when this goal is achieved through the cooperation of all concerned parties, nothing will prevent the sides from cooperating among themselves.

Asked how to clear the Arab air and strengthen the activities of the Arab League, Shaykh Khalifah said: Undoubtedly, constant exchange of views and consultations over Arab issues is always needed, especially at this historical juncture when efforts are being accelerated to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on one hand, and when common Arab action has retreated on the other. However, we are now witnessing sincere efforts to clear the Arab air and activate common Arab action.

The Qatari amir pointed out that some Arab countries have recently managed to resolve some pending issues between them by dialogue and serious negotiations. He said that this promises more Arab rapprochement and more effective cooperation to better serve common interests.

He stressed that strengthening the Arab League as the home of the Arabs requires sincere efforts from all sides. He particularly noted the need to find the appropriate way for making and implementing League decisions.

Asked whether the time has come for establishing Arab economic blocs to confront international economic blocs, the amir of Qatar said economic blocs are now the sign of the times, and no individual country can unilaterally protect its economic interests and develop its economy in isolation.

He said some Arab economic groups have existed since the eighties, and they are working to unify their economic policies and find a common market for their products. He said the Gulf Cooperation Council has made considerable progress in this respect, although the Gulf states are still looking forward to achieving further integration.

On the principles that may be included in the Arab honor charter proposed by President Husni Mubarak, the Qatari amir welcomed the proposal and said it shows how much the president is interested in and careful about the Arab nation's critical issues and about strengthening Arab relations on solid foundations to avoid past mistakes.

Shaykh Khalifah said the principles that must be included in the charter are mutual respect among all Arab countries, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state, noninterference in internal affairs, and commitment to the peaceful solution of any problems.

He stressed that this charter, called for by President Mubarak, is a step in the right direction toward restoring Arab solidarity and transcending the negative aspects that the Arab world experienced in the past years. He hoped President Mubarak's efforts will succeed to serve the Arab nation.

On calls for holding an Arab summit, the Qatari amir said: We as an Arab League member state are very eager for the restoration of Arab solidarity to overcome the differences that are sweeping our nation. But to ensure the success of any Arab summit, we believe that there should be good preparations for it. Intentions must also be good, and there should be mutual confidence and full frankness, without which, we believe, the summit will be futile.

Musa Comments on Talks

NC1806200595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1905 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 18 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the bilateral session of talks held this evening between President Husni Mubarak and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and the talks between the Egyptian and Qatari delegations focused on bilateral relations, the situation in the Gulf, the situation in the region in general, and the Middle East peace process in particular.

He added that the two leaders, Mubarak and Khalifah, also discussed the Damascus Declaration. Musa said he will attend the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers' meeting, due to be held in Bahrain next month.

Yugoslav Minister Focuses on Renewing Relations

LD1806175095 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1746 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 18 (TANJUG) — Yugoslav and Egyptian ranking officials agreed here on Sunday that peace in the former Yugoslavia was possible only through political agreement reached in direct talks between the parties to the conflict.

In this, the equality and legitimate interests of the parties to the conflict must be respected, agreed visiting Yugoslav Assistant Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic and his Egyptian Counterpart Rauf Ghoneim.

Speaking for TANJUG after the meeting, Jovanovic said that the Egyptian side had stressed its neutral attitude to the sides in conflict in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Egypt considers the conflict and indeed the entire Yugoslav crisis as a primarily European problem, and in this context underlines its firm commitment to a peaceful and just settlement of the war in Bosnia, Jovanovic said.

He said that his meeting with Ghoneim had brought to light the position that dialogue between Belgrade and Cairo was welcome as a way of stimulating the peace process and renewing relations between the countries.

Bilateral relations have been reduced to the minimum in recent years, since the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on the Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro by the United Nations in 1992.

"We agreed that differences in views on individual questions of the Yugoslav crisis, which do exist, are not a hindrance but rather all the more reason for strengthening dialogue," the Yugoslav diplomat told TANJUG.

Jovanovic, the first Yugoslav high-ranking official to visit Cairo in three and a half years, arrived in Egypt on Friday, after visiting Israel and Jordan.

In Egypt, he should have talks also with some other Egyptian political figures and meet with officials of the Cairo-based Arab League.

Musa Comments on Nationals Abroad, NATO, Bosnia

NC1706160295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1500 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today telephoned Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority.

Musa said that he and Dr. Sha'th discussed the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Regarding a problem facing Egyptians in Lebanon, the foreign minister said that there is a problem over the residence of Egyptians there, adding that he is in touch with the Egyptian ambassador and has asked him to convey two messages to the Lebanese foreign and interior ministers on this issue.

Musa went on to say that the Egyptian ambassador has sent him a report in which he noted that he had already discussed the issue with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Further, he will raise the issue with the Lebanese interior minister in order to discuss the problem and solve it in a way which protects the Egyptians' interests, improves their treatment, and lays down the best ways to deal with Egyptian workers in line with the close and traditional ties between Egypt and Lebanon.

On the ill-treatment of Egyptians in Sudan, Musa said that he has asked the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum to report to him on this issue.

Commenting on reports published today that NATO is holding contacts with a number of Middle East countries to discuss the issue of a security partnership, Minister Musa said: The contacts being made are equivalent to a political dialogue on a number of issues, including that of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in view of Egypt's interest in what is happening on the shores of the Mediterranean, and specifically the situation in Bosnia and NATO's role.

He added that the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] has failed to properly serve Bosnia and that the Islamic Contact Group is in touch with the international contact group. He said: The situation in Bosnia has become very serious and this makes us follow the issue in our position as a Mediterranean country interested in security in the Mediterranean, as a state interested in human rights, and as a Muslim country.

He went on to add: This prompts us to play an active role in the OIC and through direct contacts with European countries. He further said that the OIC has to play a more active role in the Bosnian issue, an issue which concerns not only the Islamic world but also the international community; it is one of the world's problems and this is why there is coordination between the Islamic and international Contact Groups.

Mubarak Supports Press Freedom 'Without Limits'

NC1806074295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that he is not against freedom of the press, which he supports without limits. He clarified that he wants the press to maintain its credibility and to be free of any slander.

During a tour of Upper Egypt yesterday, President Mubarak affirmed the need for Egypt to catch up with the world's progress so that it can remain on the world map.

President Mubarak expressed his pride in the achievement represented by the new Isna Barrage project. He thanked Italy, which contributed to this project in the form of financial and technical aid.

President Mubarak called for developing Upper Egypt as an integral part of Egypt. He referred to the factories already established in Qina and Suhaj. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Reiterates Support for Free Press

NC1806123295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi made a statement today in which he said that President Mubarak and the government fully appreciate the freedom of the press and speech as general and normal principles of democracy in Egypt. He said that this appreciation stems from a full belief in the constructive role played by the free press. He said that the memorandum prepared by the Journalists Syndicate regarding the recent amendments which stiffened punishments for publications crimes is being studied. He said that the ad hoc committee is studying all proposals relating to this issue. He stressed that these amendments were not meant to put any restrictions on the freedom of the press but to prevent baseless defamation of any citizen. He said that everyone must apply the press code of honor. Concluding his statement, he said that any amendment to the law requires following specific ways of enacting legislation.

Syndicate Contests Constitutionality of Press Law

NC1906131095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA) — Journalists doyen Ibrahim Nafi' has said a memorandum contesting the constitutionality of Law No. 93 of 1995, on amendments to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedures Law, has been sent to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif so that he will forward it to Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi to take the correct legal measures to contest the amendments before the Higher Constitutional Court.

He said the Press Syndicate Council, at a meeting last night, decided to set up a three-member follow-up committee to discuss the results achieved so far regarding the law and preparations for the extraordinary General Assembly meeting on Saturday [24 June]. The three members are Hasan al-Rashidi, Hatim Zakariya, and Yahya Qallash.

Press Syndicate Secretary General 'Ali Hashim said dialogue between the Press Syndicate Council and senior state officials over the law is continuing. He said the Council asked for consultations with President Mubarak because the president is the judge when it comes to the various state authorities.

Committee To Monitor Journalists

NC1706170795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — The Press Syndicate Council, in a meeting today presided over by Chairman Ibrahim Nafi', decided to set up a committee made up of a number of council members to monitor any violations of the resolutions made at the Syndicate's extraordinary general meeting and the Syndicate's Council and to determine the legal measures to follow to punish violators. The Council stands ready to receive any complaints from journalists on this and to refer them to the Syndicate Council to adopt disciplinary actions.

The Council also decided to follow up on the instructions given to the Syndicate's legal adviser to prepare a memorandum challenging the constitutionality of Law 93 of 1995. The Council decided to meet daily until 24 June, the date set for holding an extraordinary general meeting, to follow up on the matter.

Syndicate Secretary General 'Ali Hashim stated that the Council appeals to all colleagues in all national [state-run] and partisan papers to put an end to any personal bickering that may harm the unity of journalists at this critical juncture or violate the longstanding professional and unionist traditions.

Sudan

Commentary Alleges U.S. Involved in 'Conspiracy'

EA1606123495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States is trying to involve itself in a conspiracy against the government.

It is now trying to bring together the scattered so-called opposition and remnants of the defunct parties abroad.

In order to achieve this goal, the U.S. regime is working to plot with some neighboring African states against Sudan to rekindle the fire of discord and disagreement between them and Sudan. Eritrea has taken the initiative in performing this role by breaking off its relations with Sudan and opening its doors to opposition partisan and military groups. Colleague al-Khayr Abdullah Mahjub, has prepared the following on this subject:

[Begin Mahjub recording] It has been reported that the United States is at the head of a plan to oppose the government. The objective of the United States and its friends is to bring together the scattered opposition parties and the so-called national alliance, and put them under the leadership of the rebellion in order to serve this conspiratorial plan.

According to observers, the United States is taking advantage of all the contradictions and intrastate conflicts in Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa region. The Eritrean regime has offered no justifiable motive for breaking off its relations with Sudan. The Eritrean regime is therefore taking part in the aforementioned U.S. plan and is a cat's paw. An objective analysis of the circumstances in which relations [between Eritrea and Sudan] were broken off will confirm the existence of the foreign role that seeks to cause such conflicts.

Consequently, the United States' ambition in the African region cannot be achieved in a situation of political and social stability, which the continent's states seek to achieve. [passage omitted]

In this context, Eritrea broke off its relations with Sudan and thereafter opened its doors to the opposition, which began to meet in its territory. Asmara had earlier hosted rebel John Garang, his advisors, [word indistinct] party leaders, and leaders of the alleged national alliance. The attempts led by the Eritreans [word indistinct] were a failure.

Reports have begun to describe in detail the disagreements between the partisan groups, who call themselves the national alliance. The opposition arena is now rife with exchanges of accusations between different wings and even within the same wing. These accusations confirm that there are deep disagreements between Sudan's opponents who now call one another hirelings and opportunists. [passage omitted]

Eritrea, which has now opened its door to Sudan's opponents for the second time in order to serve the U.S. plan, has confirmed by its feverish effort that it seeks to become a cat's paw, being used by the United States to achieve its goals and realize its interests in the African continent.

These are interests which reporters and observers say oppose, on the whole and in detail, the collective interests of Africa and the interests of every African state. This has not been understood by Eritrea under the leadership of Isaias Afwerki, who has taken major steps to target Sudan.

The Eritrean president has established a committee of Eritrean experts, whom he has given the task of formulating the idea of a conference in which the opposition would meet the rebels, and in which the mantle of leadership would be given to John Garang. The aim is to seek the best means for toppling the government.

It will be noticeable to the observer that this Eritrean conduct is a well-developed plan to intervene in Sudan's affairs and is a plot and an interference that is unjustifiable. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Bashir Comments on Rebel Movement 'Plot'

EA1806170095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has stressed that a great conspiracy is being hatched against Sudan by means of the so-called new Sudan brigade. He said there is an agreement between the [Sudanese People's Liberation Army leader John] Garang faction of the rebel movement, and the defunct 'Ummah Party to plot against the homeland.

In an interview with AL-SHURUQ [SUNRISE] Magazine published in the United Arab Emirates, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the leader of the defunct 'Ummah Party, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, is part of this conspiracy against the country.

The president pointed out that the current meeting in Eritrea between the remnants of the opposition, and the rebel movement was convened to plot against Sudan. He described this action as a futile attempt on the part of the opposition which has declared its intention to shift hostilities to the north, and to undertake military activities as well as sabotage and destruction.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said one of the leaders of the defunct 'Ummah Party, 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, has declared the points discussed with the rebels, and sent them to his leaders in the country who have approved them. It is for this reason that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been detained, he said. Al-Bashir rejected accusations that Sudan supports terrorism and violates human rights. He said the target is to harm the country's Islamic orientation, and further stressed that the target is not Sudan alone but Arabs and Muslims in general.

His Excellency reiterated that the rebel movement is not serious in the peace process since it does not make its own independent decisions, and is influenced by a foreign power. Whenever we start a new round of talks with them, some quarters such as the U.S. Congress, and the human rights organization [as heard] begin to issue statements and decisions against Sudan so as to besiege it politically, economically, and militarily, he said.

Kuwait

Iraq Rejects Planned Meeting on POW's, Missing

LD1806124395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ibrahim al-Shahin, deputy chairman of the Kuwaiti committee on POW's and missing persons and leader of the Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings of the technical committee, said that the exploratory visit, which was due to take place this morning on the Iraqi side of the Kuwait-Iraq border, has been rejected by Iraq after the arrival of the Kuwaiti delegation and the delegation of the alliance states to the headquarters of the United Nations on the Kuwaiti side of the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Dr. al-Shahin said that this stance of the Iraqi side has come despite the arrangements and measures that had been agreed beforehand under the auspices of the International Red Cross Committee and despite the fact that Kuwait and the alliance states — who are represented by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the French Republic — were present on the Kuwaiti side of the border and ready as scheduled to cross into the Iraqi side as agreed.

The vice chairman of the National Committee on the Affairs of POW's and Missing Persons confirmed that Iraq's rejection comes as a continuation of its negative stands and lack of will to end this humanitarian and legal issue, despite the practical stands of the Kuwaiti side and the allies in response to Iraqi proposals.

Dr. al-Shahin appealed to the International Red Cross Committee to intervene to put an end to these attitudes. He also called on the UN Security Council and the international community to spur Iraq into implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 686 and 687, and the Geneva agreement on the release of the Kuwaiti POW's and nationals of other countries from the standpoint of the need to tackle this issue from a humanitarian angle.

It is worth mentioning that Iraq yesterday rejected the presence of the alliance states among the Kuwaiti delegation and insisted that the Kuwaiti delegation alone should visit the Iraqi side of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border.

Iraq also surprised the delegations of Kuwait and the alliance states this morning by changing the arrangements of the visit, which had been agreed upon in advance.

Dr. al-Shahin stressed that despite these disagreements, the Kuwaiti side, out of its desire to follow up these efforts, is fully ready to hold any future meeting on which agreement will be reached and after the International Red Cross Committee makes the arrangements. The State of Kuwait has full confidence in the International Red Cross Committee.

Official 'Keen' on Meeting

LD1706214795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1953 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 17 Jun (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee in Charge of the Affairs of Prisoners and Missing Persons, said today that Kuwait is ready to attend the meeting of the technical committee that will examine the fate of the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons. The meeting will be held on the Kuwait-Iraq border under the auspices of the Red Cross.

Shaykh al-Salim made this statement to the press on his return home from Paris and Strasbourg, where he held meetings with members of the European Parliament. These meetings were aimed at explaining the dimensions of the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners who are still being held by the Iraqi regime in its jails.

Shaykh al-Salim said "Kuwait did not refuse to attend the meeting. On the contrary, according to Red Cross information, Iraq requested the postponement." He added: "We are keen on the meeting, and I believe the date for the meeting of the technical subcommittee will be set for around 25 June. As for the tripartite committee, its meeting will be held in mid-July in Geneva."

The chairman of the national committee also talked about his meetings in Strasbourg with the European Parliamentary groups and said: "We received absolute support from the president of the European Parliament, his deputies, and the leaders of the parliamentary groups which make up three-quarters of the 626 parliament members."

He said this support is due to the fact that the Kuwaiti delegation presented the issue from a humanitarian angle and on the basis of human rights. He added that the European Parliament promised to "issue a statement in which it expresses its support for the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons."

He also talked about his meeting with the head of Strategic and Diplomatic Studies in Paris and whom he had met recently in Kuwait when he came at the invitation of Yusuf al-Samit, chairman of the board and executive director of the Kuwaiti News Agency.

Shaykh al-Salim said that the meeting, held during a dinner banquet, gave the Kuwaiti delegation the opportunity to meet a number of French political figures, most of whom were advisers to the president of the republic and the prime minister. The meeting, he added, was attended by Tariq Razzuqi, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Paris; Dr. Sadiq al-Bassam, director general of the Kuwaiti News Agency; and Dr. Muhammad al-Haddad, who made their contribution about Kuwait and the issue of the prisoners.

He also talked about the importance of his meeting today with former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, who is now a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament and one of the politicians who follow Middle East issues.

Oman

Bin-'Alawi Urges Iraq To Comply With UN Resolutions

JN1906133795 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 15 Jun 95 pp 1, 30

[Report by Hasan al-'Imran and 'Isam Hashish in Muscat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that it is in Iraq's interest to implement all the resolutions imposed on it by the Security Council to get the international embargo lifted. He also called on Iraq to change its stands and policies to help it lift the embargo for which the Iraqi people are paying heavily. This came in a statement to AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I on the stand of the Security Council, of which Oman is a non-permanent member, regarding the extension of the embargo on Iraq. Asked about Iraq's doubts on the premeditated intentions of the Security Council to extend the embargo, regardless of Iraq's compliance with the international resolutions, the Omani minister said: Oman has not felt — through its contacts with the major countries at the Security Council — any premeditated intention to maintain the embargo forever. He noted that these countries have doubts about Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions.

The Omani minister added that his country hopes that Iraq will comprehend the situation and become aware that the international embargo will only be lifted if Iraq complies with the Security Council resolutions related to its aggression against Kuwait. He noted that the Sultanate of Oman has informed the Iraqi foreign minister of this stand and that the Iraqi minister has promised that his country will end this situation as soon as possible. However, the Omani minister added, nothing has happened and differences escalated between the Iraqi Government and the UN Special Commission charged with removing mass destruction weapons. He added that this is not in Iraq's interest.

Turning to the suffering of the Iraqi people, the Omani minister said that the international community renders very limited aid to the Iraqis, thereby increasing the difficulties facing the Iraqi people. This, he added, causes our pain and resentment against this situation.

Answering a question on the existence of an international plot to uncover quantities of zirconium, which is used in the manufacture of mass destruction weapons, heading for Iraq to justify the continuation of the embargo, the Omani minister said: The only recognized way to lift the embargo is the report of the UN Special Commission, which is in charge of implementing the Security Council resolutions and which is led by Ambassador Ekeus, as well as its assertion that Iraq does not possess any mass destruction capabilities. So far, the Special Commission has not presented such a report. Also, we have not felt, through our membership of the Security Council anything that would show that the Special Commission would recommend the lifting of the sanctions when the matter will be discussed at the council at the end of the month. As we know, the Special Commission's report has nothing to do with what has been revealed regarding the zirconium.

Concluding his statement, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi said: It is in Iraq's interest to cooperate more with the UN Special Commission because the embargo will not be lifted until the Special Commission announces that it is convinced there are no more weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The Special Commission has found that there are still areas where Iraq is not cooperating enough.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Commission With Yemen Holds First Session

Meeting Minutes Signed

LD1706190195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1803 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 17 Jun (SPA) — 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development of the Republic of Yemen and head of the Yemeni side at the meetings of the Saudi-Yemeni joint commission, has said that the minutes of the first round of the commission's meeting were signed.

In a statement to SPA he said: The meetings were earnest, practical, sincere, and frank, and we succeeded today in signing the minutes that regulate the committee's next agenda, and determine the intervals at which it will be convened and the issues that will be covered.

He added: This commission is the most important of all our work, and its progress will influence all other matters. He expected that other matters will proceed at the same time.

Dr. Ba-jammal pointed out that he conveyed to the Saudi side a Yemeni proposal on the agenda of the joint ministerial commission, which is due to convene during or at the end of this week.

Press Communique Issued

LD1706190595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 17 Jun (SPA) — The following press communique was released today at the end of the first session of the meetings of the Saudi-Yemeni Joint Committee:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the Saudi-Yemeni Joint Committee, set up by Article 3 of the memorandum of understanding signed by the two countries in Mecca on 26 February, held its first session in Jeddah on 16-17 June. The objective of the meeting was to make the appropriate arrangements for the work of the committee.

The Saudi side was led by Ibrahim Bin-'Abdallah Al-'Anqari, personal adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; while the Yemeni side was led by 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development.

These meetings were characterized by the clear desire of the two sides to continue working toward achieving, God willing, the aim pursued by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques; and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in the interest of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

This session resulted in an agreement over the necessary measures and steps that the two sides will take in preparation for the meetings of the next session.

Moreover, the Yemeni delegation expressed its utmost appreciation and consideration for the efforts made by the Saudi side to pave the way for a good and fraternal atmosphere in order to ensure the success of this session of the committee's meeting, which has been crowned with a happy outcome.

Yemen

Joint Higher Committee Meetings With Jordan Held

Jordan's Bin-Shakir Arrives

JN1706143995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir arrived at Sanaa International Airport at noon today leading a ranking delegation on a three-day visit to our country, during which he will head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee which will start in Sanaa today. The Jordanian prime minister and the accompanying delegation were accorded an official reception led by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. [passage omitted]

Prime Ministers Speak at Meeting

JN1706181195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The fourth session of the Joint Yemeni-Jordanian Higher Committee began at the Prime Ministry in the capital, Sanaa, this evening. It was co-chaired by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

At the beginning of the session, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani delivered a speech welcoming the leader and members of the Jordanian delegation to their second homeland, the Republic of Yemen. Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir also delivered a similar speech.

Salih on 'Breakthrough' in Relations

JN1706144395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received in Sanaa today His Excellency [Jordanian] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, who conveyed to him the greetings of his brother His Majesty King Husayn, as well as his congratulations to President Salih on the signing of the border demarcation agreement between the two sisterly countries, the Republic of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has informed him that Saudi Arabia intends to open a new chapter of relations with Jordan and to develop these relations in the interest of both sisterly countries. President Salih added that efforts are being made to restore Arab solidarity in general and that the first results of these efforts are the breakthrough in Yemeni-Saudi relations and the breakthrough in Jordanian-Saudi relations.

The Jordanian prime minister arrived in Sanaa earlier today to lead the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee which will start in Sanaa this evening.

Salih Discusses Saudi Trip, Party Relations

MM1606155195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jun 95 p 7

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Sanaa on 14 June]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khayrallah] One week after your visit to Saudi Arabia, how do you assess the results of that visit?

[Salih] We feel satisfied with the results of the visit, which has calmed tempers, buried the past with all its negative aspects, and turned over a new leaf in relations. The public in both Yemen and Saudi Arabia are very pleased with the cordial and fraternal atmosphere which prevailed throughout the visit and with the good results which will have positive effects on relations between the two countries as well as stability and peace in the Arabian Peninsula and the region in general. Now committees from both countries have begun work and contacts are proceeding normally, and there is a Saudi-Yemeni draft security agreement.

[Khayrallah] How do you envisage the solution for the remaining part of the borders?

[Salih] The border committee is currently meeting in Jeddah. It is discussing a mechanism for negotiation. Once that mechanism is approved, each side will submit its own concept to the other and then there will be joint discussions by the committees with a view to achieving positive results without referring back to the political leaderships. If they fail to find a solution, they could then refer to the two leaderships which would then intervene to resolve the issues the committees could not resolve.

[Khayrallah] How do you see the solution?

[Salih] We believe that the solution lies in fraternal dialogue and understanding on the basis of not clinging to absolute historical rights, nor faits accomplis. There must be compromise solutions that would be acceptable to both sides and would fulfill the aspirations of the two neighboring fraternal countries.

[Khayrallah] What attracted your attention most during the visit?

[Salih] The great construction progress I saw in the [Saudi] Kingdom, especially in Jeddah. I have visited that city more than once. The last visit was seven years ago, but on this visit I noticed that it has grown to three or four times what it was when I last visited it.

[Khyarallah] What was behind the latest cabinet reshuffle in Yemen?

[Salih] That was necessary because some of the brother ministers wished to leave the cabinet, some for health reasons. We also wanted to inject the government with an element of youth in line with the principle of rejuvenating the leadership.

[Khayrallah] Was your relationship with the [Yemeni] Reform [Grouping] [YRG] not affected by the exit of Oil Minister Faysal Bin-Shamlan?

[Salih] Faysal Bin-Shamlan is an independent figure. Between us and the YRG there is close alliance, integration, common denominators, and great accord. Our relationship with the YRG is nothing like our relationship was with the [Yemeni] Socialist [Party] [YSP]. There is a big difference. We have common denominators here.

[Khayrallah] What are they?

[Salih] The national charter is our common denominator, in addition to the fact that the two organizations jointly defend the unity of the homeland. There are numerous other common denominators, especially commitment to the constant national principles, the Islamic faith, preservation of the republican system, democracy, political pluralism, and peaceful rotation of power.

[Khayrallah] So why not merge the YRG with the General People's Congress [GPC]?

[Salih] That is not on, for either organization. We prefer not to merge. It is important that they should continue as two independent organizations, in the interest of the country and in the interest of democracy. They are the two main parties. If they merged, there would be no real competition left in the arena. We do not want to go back to the one-party system or the totalitarian system.

[Khayrallah] When will the GPC hold its fifth congress?

[Salih] It will be held on the 25th of this month.

[Khayrallah] What results do you expect the congress to produce?

[Salih] The fifth general congress will be a new shift and a new thrust in the development of the GPC's organizational and political work. There will be a restructuring of the GPC in a way compatible with all the new factors and changes witnessed by the country, and also with partisan and political pluralism. In the past the GPC was an umbrella for elements from the YRG, the Nasirites, the Ba'thists, the independents, and some elements from the YSP. After unity and the introduction of partisan pluralism, each party formed its own independent framework. It is now necessary, therefore, to reconsider the GPC's structure in the light of all the changes and new national factors.

[Khayrallah] Is there anything new regarding the 16 people wanted for trial, and why have you only selected four of them to prosecute legally?

[Salih] The trial of the four is the beginning. The rest on the list will be brought to trial after that.

[Khayrallah] When?

[Salih] That is up to the public prosecution which will deal with it after the completion of the procedures and the preparation of the files and documents for their trial. Contacts are now under way between Interpol in Sanaa and Interpol abroad to discuss the extradition of the wanted people prior to their trial.

[Khayrallah] Is there no possibility of granting them amnesty?

[Salih] You know that thousands of innocent victims fell during the war triggered by those people. They must be punished for the crimes they committed against the people and the homeland. They will get a fair trial.

[Khayrallah] Apart from that list, are there others wanted for trial? Is Salim Salih one of the wanted men?

[Salih] The list of people wanted for trial is known but anyone who was involved and who has not benefited from the general amnesty is considered to be one of the real participants in the secession and the sedition. Anyone who is not confident about returning to the homeland is a criminal.

[Khayrallah] What do you have against the YSP? It has been claimed that its members have foreign contacts.

[Salih] We are in contact with the YSP and we hope it will change its current political and informational line and stop being a captive of the past and of past conduct, and not repeat its political and informational line pursued during the transitional period, the crisis, and the war. Regrettably, we have not yet sensed a difference in the attitude of the party. It remains the same attitude and the same mentality which prevailed before the war. If the YSP becomes a civilian party, learns from its past mistakes, criticizes and condemns the secession, and stops contacts with and defines its position on the elements abroad who caused the secession, the state would then be willing to cooperate with it effectively.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe the party can survive in opposition?

[Salih] They used to say that they could not live out of power just as fish cannot live out of water. Now they are out of power. A year has passed and they have managed to survive out of power, and they proved that effectively. Under a reign of democracy and peaceful rotation of power, every political party should get used to the idea of being out of power, in opposition, at any time because it may be in power today and in opposition tomorrow, and that applies to us in the GPC, the YRG, the YSP, and the rest of the parties.

[Khayrallah] Has your visit to Saudi Arabia had an effect on your relations with the Gulf states? What about your relations with Kuwait?

[Salih] The effects have certainly been positive. Our relations with the Gulf states are solid and have continued with such Gulf states as Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. That leaves Kuwait and we hope to begin to turn over a new leaf in our relations with it and to close the past with all its negative aspects. We are interested in turning over a new leaf in our relations with the fraternal state of Kuwait because our relations with Kuwait had been special since the outbreak of the 26 September revolution and Kuwait effectively supported our development plans.

One of the most important Kuwaiti features in our country is Sanaa University and its faculty of medicine as well as numerous hospitals and schools in the republic. We highly appreciate that cooperation and the fraternal relations which existed between the Yemeni and Kuwaiti peoples and we hope that in the near future they will be restored to what they were before, God willing.

INA Refutes Reports on Abu Gharib Uprising

Claims U.S. Media 'Manipulated'

JN1606110495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1000 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA) — There is a great cultural and ethical difference between the meaning of the Koranic verse that says "O ye who believe, if a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterward become full of repentance for what ye have done" and the implications of the slogan "keep lying until others believe you." This slogan is the professional guide of the Western, especially U.S., news media. In his book "The Fire This Time," which discusses the military aggression in the Mother of Battles, Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general who is unpopular in Washington, says: These media organs are no more than giant commercial monopolies that project Iraq as the devil and then suppress any voice that opposes the U.S. schemes against it. He also says: The media, which the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution describes as the people's watchdog, have become no more than a dog manipulated by the Pentagon to promote war.

Everyone recalls the dirty role played by the Voice of America, the BBC Radio, and Radio Monte Carlo, which is controlled by the billionaire Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister. Everyone also recalls what was transmitted by the Israeli radios and others, as well as the radios of the agent regimes and the mercenaries. More than 412 radio hours, full of falsehoods, lies, and psychological war, were beamed daily against Iraq and its legitimate cause.

All these efforts have not persuaded even a handful of people to demonstrate in support of Jabir al-Sabah and Fahd al-Sa'ud. Also, these media could not influence the Arab public to make it side with the policies of the defunct regimes that took part in the aggression against Iraq. These hostile news media possess huge material resources and modern technologies, including space channels and dozens of radios beamed against Iraq, as well as newspapers and magazines inside and outside the Arab world and some writers, editors, and correspondents who have sold their professional honor for petrodollars. Those people are like some who blow bubbles that are soon dissipated by the dazzling light of the truth.

When the Western media organs became exhausted of blowing bubbles they charged some of their agents, who are mean in their profession and ethics, to help them blow new bubbles. Wednesday [14 June] evening, a new bubble was blown by the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman, who enjoys special privileges in the Jordanian capital and receives instructions from the U.S. and British Embassies there. This correspondent fabricated a news report, in which she cited eyewitnesses and travelers — without of course mentioning their names or identities — as saying to her only, as if she alone was waiting for them, that a battle with tanks and artillery, supported by planes, took place when the 14 July Armored Battalion attacked a radio transmitter in Abu Gharib at 1415 GMT, 1815 Baghdad time, and that fierce battles are raging in the area, which is covered by smoke.

However, this stupid correspondent, who is known for her hysterical conduct, has forgotten that the travel time between Baghdad and Amman in car is between 12 to 14 hours, so how did those unknown travelers arrive in Amman in two hours to meet her in particular?

When this fabricated report was transmitted through teleprinters, the AFP correspondent in Baghdad cited a source at the Culture and Information Ministry as categorically denying this fabricated report which was immediately carried on Israeli radio. The AFP correspondent in Baghdad also visited the area and sent a second dispatch in which he reaffirmed that the situation is calm, that there are no clashes, that the movement of cars and trucks on the Abu Gharib road is flowing normally, that the citizens in that area are shopping while others are spending their time in cafes, and that television and radio stations are carrying their normal programming without any interruption.

On that same night, the Television of Youth showed footage of the transmission station in Abu Gharib and presented interviews with several workers in the station. It was clear to the viewers that everything was normal. In addition, a correspondent for REUTER in Baghdad denied the Monte Carlo report altogether. In the beginning, only Radio Monte Carlo and Israeli radio carried the report, but when the press and radios began receiving the denial reports, Radio Monte Carlo tried to modify its report, so it said that the battalion was not really a battalion but only three tanks and that its commander Lieutenant General or Brigadier General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi had committed suicide after he was encircled, as the radio claimed, by units that included around 6,000 fighters and a large number of tanks.

When we asked the competent agencies if there is an officer by this name and if they can give us any information about him, these agencies categorically denied that there is an officer by this name in the Iraqi Army.

As for London Radio and the British Television Network, it seems that they were surprised at the beginning by this report. However, they mentioned it briefly in their newscasts yesterday, Thursday. They cited an Iraqi spokesman as denying the report as baseless and describing it as only failed wishes. However, Radio Monte Carlo's Lebanese correspondent, who enjoys special privileges in Amman, is still hysterically insisting that the military rebellion is continuing. She says that reliable Arab sources have confirmed to her that Abu Gharib is now isolated from Iraq.

Where are these reliable Arab sources? Do not laugh dear reader — they are based in Dubayy this time. What a joke!

One may wonder: Why did the Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] not say a thing for some time? It finally spoke last night and issued a brief statement which neither denies nor confirms the Radio Monte Carlo story. The statement, which reflects frustrated hopes more than facts, says: A military skirmish has probably occurred near a radio station in Baghdad. Independent reports, however, have not confirmed that story. If such a story is true, it means trouble for Saddam Husayn.

No one is used to such statements from the CIA, which usually either denies or confirms such events. But the use of elastic statements such as "probably" and "if such a story is true" reflects only a confusion and a desire to help the agent oil shaykhs. There is a distance between hopes and reality. The armies of 28 states, including three major powers, a five-year embargo, and a propaganda and political war have all failed to travel that distance to change that reality.

Excoriates Media 'Lies'

JN1606112695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0935 GMT 16 Jun 95

[INA commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA) — As we expected in a previous commentary, the Western media has intensified their lies against Iraq by fabricating a lie, which everybody has heard, about alleged battles in the Abu Gharib area.

Certainly, the growth in these lies against Iraq coincides with the date on which Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, will submit his report — 19 June. These programmed lies are something we have become used to. Everyone knows and expects them, and everyone knows when they escalate and when they subside. Despite the fact that the Baghdad-based REUTER and AFP correspondents visited the areas in which the alleged incidents took place and filed reports on the situation there, AFP still insists on fabricating lies against Iraq by citing its correspondent in Amman. The Western media raises the slogan "lie, and then lie until people believe you." This slogan has become the code of practice for Western media, especially the U.S. media. In his book on the military aggression in the Mother of Battles, Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark says these media organs are no more than giant commercial monopolies that project Iraq as the devil and then suppress any voice that opposes the U.S. schemes against Iraq. He also says: The media, which the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution describes as the people's watchdog, has become no more than a dog manipulated by the Pentagon to promote war.

Everyone recalls the dirty role played by the Voice of America, the BBC Radio, and Radio Monte Carlo, which is controlled by the billionaire Rafiq al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister. Everyone also recalls what was transmitted by Israeli radios and other radios, as well as the radios of the agent regimes and the mercenaries. More than 412 radio hours, full of falsehoods, lies, and psychological war, were beamed daily against Iraq and its legitimate cause. In this regard, a U.S. newspaper, the FEDERALIST, notes that fabricating lies and misinformation, and hiding facts from world public opinion is a process that is performed in accordance with a very well studied mechanism. According to the same paper, because the U.S. media is like an octopus, the fabrication of lies in the European media has also become a profession. The European media are, intentionally or otherwise, joining the Americans in fabricating cheap lies.

Back to our story, we ask: What is the reason for this hostility toward Iraq? Why is the United States not showing hostility toward other states? Why has it launched an aggressive war against it, in complicity with more than 30 states? Why has it employed the most advanced weapons in the Western arsenal? And why is there this severe and very mean and comprehensive embargo? We do not wish to give an answer because every honorable Arab citizen knows the answer. Iraq will remain lofty and proud regardless of how many lies the Western media fabricates.

Further on Media, Opposition Reportage on 'Mutiny'

Soldiers Executed; Relatives Arrested

NC1806082595 Paris AFP in English
0809 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, June 18 (AFP) — Iraqi authorities have executed 150 soldiers who took part in an abortive mutiny on the outskirts of Baghdad, reliable Iraqi sources told AFP Sunday [18 June].

Hundreds of relatives of the rebel soldiers of the 14 July battalion have also been arrested, the sources said.

Forces loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn crushed the mutiny led by General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi a day after it broke out Wednesday in Abu Gharib, west of Baghdad. The Iraqi authorities have denied that any mutiny took place.

Tank Battalion Personnel Detained

NC1806153795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saddam Husayn regime's security forces have detained all the members of the 14 July Tank Battalion, 10th Armored Brigade, after they attempted to seize the Abu Gharib radio transmitter. The authorities moved them to a camp in [placename indistinct] for interrogation.

Iraqi sources advise that the death or suicide of the battalion's commander [name indistinct], who on Wednesday led a military operation to seize the radio transmitter, has not yet been confirmed. The sources believe it is likely that Colonel al-Dulaymi has (?chosen) to flee and hide with the officers and men who also participated in the movement that was put down by the ruling regime.

Security Forces Cordon Off al-Ramadi

NC1806152195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling authorities [words indistinct] in al-Anbar Governorate continue to arrest anyone they believe helped or sympathized with the military forces that recently attempted to seize a radio transmitter in the Abu Gharib area.

People arriving in Amman said Saddam Husayn's security forces have cordoned off the city of al-Ramadi and other (?districts and areas) in al-Anbar Governorate where clashes — resulting in many casualties — between citizens and forces loyal to the ruling regime took place.

Radio Urges 'Spirit of Sacrifice'

NC1806165695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1514 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroic and bold operation carried out by one of the Iraqi Army's battalions against the regime's centers and enterprises in the Abu Gharib area, a Baghdad suburb, has proved that the Iraqi Army cannot remain silent over the Baghdad regime's actions against it. This means that the growing popular resistance against the Baghdad regime is on the threshold of a new phase of struggle based on cooperation, coordination, and a fateful cohesiveness between the people and the Army, particularly because the Iraqi Army has witnessed the massacres and crimes perpetrated by the regime's repressive organs and spying centers against the Iraqi people.

The regime has already perpetrated several crimes against the Army itself, it involved it in losing battles fought to satisfy Saddam Husayn's aggressive and expansionist whims. Also, the regime exterminated hundreds of field commanders, officers, and soldiers on the front lines of neighboring Iran in collective executions carried out on the pretext of cowardice and treason. Additionally, the Army was forced to enter a long-term war of attrition against the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan. In this war, the Army was forced to carry out terrible acts of injustice against our people.

Now, after realizing that silence over the terrible massacres committed by the Baghdad regime against the Iraqi people might put the Army — whose mission is to defend the people and repel the dangers facing it — in a position where it has to face numerous historical responsibilities, the Iraqi Army has started to respond to the appeals of our Iraqi people, who are suffering due to Saddam Husayn. The heroic stand of the 14 July Battalion, when it attacked the 'Aflaqites' dens in Abu Gharib, is merely a warning to the leaders in Baghdad that the Iraqi Army cannot continue to remain a spectator while the Iraqi people are being repressed and that it is determined to defend the people from the 'Aflaqite oppression, torture, and persecution that has surpassed imagination and has made the Iraqis realize the darkest and most dangerous period of modern history.

While highly praising the spirit of sacrifice and resistance among the 14 July Battalion officers and soldiers and saluting our martyrs, we call on all the brother officers and soldiers in the Iraqi Army to act to end the tragedy, repression, and 'Aflaqite terrorism inflicted on our people by pointing their guns at the 'Aflaqites and by forging fateful cohesiveness with the people. This cohesiveness will turn the Iraqi Army from an army of a regionally and internationally ostracized dictatorial regime into an army of the people, an army of building and construction, an army of rebuilding what has been destroyed by the dictatorship, an army to restore peace and security to all of Iraq.

Abu Gharib First Stage of 'Rebellion'

JN1706172695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, an Iraqi opposition party in exile, has said in a statement issued in Damascus that the rebellion, which took place near Baghdad last week, was the first stage of a large-scale military rebellion against Army units loyal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The statement notes that the rebels failed to destroy the radio transmitter in the Abu Gharib area, which was the sign that other units were waiting for to join the rebellion.

Resentment, Disturbances in Various Areas Noted

NC1606151895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Diplomats in the Jordanian capital have confirmed that there was a military rebellion against Saddam Husayn's regime in Abu Gharib two days ago. In a report published today by the newspaper AL-HAYAH, diplomats say that there are disturbances and instances of resistance to Saddam Husayn's authorities in several areas of Iraq.

Meanwhile, Saddam Husayn's regime has put all Army units on their highest alert status. Western military circles say that this shows that Baghdad's ruler is panicking as a result of the Abu Gharib incidents. [passage omitted]

Arab press reports point out that the military actions against Saddam's regime in the Abu Gharib area demonstrate the extent of the Iraqi Army's resentment of Baghdad's ruler and his corrupt regime. They explain that Saddam's reckless adventures during the Gulf war [words indistinct], the policies adopted by the regime's [word indistinct] and his intelligence services against Army officers — as demonstrated by numerous arrests, acts of torture, and executions — have caused large segments of the Army to lose their loyalty to their leadership.

The reports note that Saddam intentionally insults the Army. They point out that Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who [words indistinct] and did not rise through the ranks, used to be a mere driver with a sergeant's rank before Baghdad's rulers gave him several ministerial posts, most recently the defense portfolio.

Lebanese press reports indicate that Saddam Husayn's despotic regime is facing real dangers and that its attempts to impose a blackout on current incidents will not change the facts. They say that seething resentment prevails among the Iraqi public and threatens the regime with disintegration. [passage omitted]

Iraqi nationals arriving in Jordan yesterday reported that tension is rife in al-Najaf and Karbala'. Today's newspapers cite these travelers as saying that disturbances spread to these two cities as a repercussion of the al-Ramadi incidents when the Baghdad regime's forces clashed with the citizens.

Regime Takes Action Against 'Chaos'

NC1706154295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to people arriving from Baghdad, Saddam's regime has ordered that electricity and water be cut off to al-Ramadi, and that it also prevented the arrival of foodstuffs to the city's residents. These arbitrary measures are aimed at quelling the continuing uprising of al-Ramadi's sons against Baghdad's ruler and his terrorist regime. Iraqi opposition sources commented on this by saying that these actions will not weaken al-Dulaym tribe's determination to take revenge on the symbols of the regime.

Further, as part of its oppressive and arbitrary measures against the sons of the al-Dulaym tribe, Saddam personally ordered the Air Force's command and units to bar the tribe's pilots from flying, even for training purposes. Moreover, [Defense Minister] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid ordered all al-Dulaymi officers to be moved from the al-Taji and al-Rashid camps in Baghdad to units far from the capital.

Meanwhile, military sources close (?to al-Dulaym tribe) said that the regime is planning to gradually pension-off [tasrih] the al-Dulaymi officers from the Armed Forces because there is a large number of them. Pensioning them all off at once would upset the structure of the Armed Forces.

Most of Iraq's governorates are witnessing extensive popular anger. This prompted the regime to establish roadblocks and checkpoints in many areas. According to arrivals from northern Iraq, there is chaos in Mosul and [place name indistinct], and there is tension in the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala'. The arrivals said that the authorities increased armed inspection posts on the main roads linking Baghdad with Iraq's southern, northern, and western governorates.

In a related development, the ruling regime in Baghdad dispatched further armed elements affiliated with a unit called Saddam Fedayeen to al-Anbar Governorate amid reports that confrontations and unrest continue in the governorate. Arrivals in Amman said the authorities supplied the forces of this unit with tanks, armored vehicles, and personnel carriers to suppress the popular uprisings erupting in the Iraqi governorates against

Saddam Husayn's regime. The Saddam government had entrusted the aforementioned unit, which is supervised by 'Udayy, with quelling the recent popular uprising in al-Anbar Governorate and its subdistricts.

Resistance Attack in Mosul Detailed

NC1806154695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi National Solidarity Movement [INSM], one of the Iraqi opposition groups, has said that one of its units blew up a military supply facility belonging to the northern area's intelligence directorate in Mosul on 8 June.

This came in a statement issued by the INSM recently. The statement added that the explosion in the Nabi Yunus suburb killed two intelligence officers and injured three others.

The INSM pledged to continue and escalate these armed attacks on the centers of the bloody Baghdad regime until the regime is finished.

Regime Evicting Kurds From Karkuk

NC1606162995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing a knowledgeable source in Karkuk, the KURDISTAN NWAY newspaper reports today that the 'Aflaqite regime has recently begun a frenzied campaign to evict more Kurdish families from Karkuk and settle Arab families in their place. The source notes that this step is part of the regime's dictatorial policy to Arabize the town.

According to the same source, the paper adds that the 'Aflaqite regime is currently settling Arab clans in the housing compounds near Karkuk. These compounds were basically established to settle Kurdish families.

'Uprising' Spreads to South

NC1806150895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from inside Iraq confirm that the popular uprising, suppressed by the forces of the Saddam Husayn regime in al-Anbar Governorate, recently spread to the southern provinces. These provinces are experiencing extensive popular rage against the ruling regime.

The reports state that the southern governorates, namely al-Basrah and al-Nasiriyah, see chaos at night, when the ruling regime's forces disappear at sundown. The reports add that (?assassinations) and organized [words indistinct] have become daily events in the southern governorates.

Paper Hopes Ekeus Report To 'Crown' Cooperation

JN1906093795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has expressed hope that [UN Special Commission head] Ekeus' new report will crown several years of serious, fruitful, and positive cooperation without which the UN Special Commission could have done nothing.

In an article today, the paper, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, says: Political circles at the United Nations indicate that the new report will be just like the previous reports — inconclusive, inaccurate, and full of open-ended expressions which will not allow the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution to lift or ease the blockade.

The paper adds: The UN Special Commission has ignored one fact; namely, that these bad intentions, which do not respond to the growing international will calling for a just, fair, and balanced dealing with Iraq, will provide good reason to encourage Iraq to reconsider the extent of its cooperation with the commission.

The paper stresses that the Special Commission has become an integral part of the tools used by the United States to maintain the blockade and keep the UN Security Council impotent to respond to the humanitarian and legal considerations by lifting the blockade or at least easing it.

In this regard, the paper notes: The chairman of the Special Commission does not hesitate to open files which he himself announced have been closed, similar to what happened with the chemical and biological weapons. This shows that this commission and its chairman have no honesty or objectivity left to encourage continuated cooperation with them, or to provide all that would maintain this commission's task which has no clear or known end.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Iraqi people wonder about the usefulness of complying with the UN Security Council resolutions or cooperating with the Special Commission in the absence of Iraq obtaining any of its rights with regard to lifting the blockade partially or wholly, and as long as the UN Security Council evades its legal obligations enshrined in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without any consideration of the difficult and serious effects of the blockade.

'Aziz Criticizes U.S. Military Presence in Turkey

JN1806150695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA) — Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said the experience of the past years since 1991 has confirmed beyond any doubt that the presence of U.S. troops in Turkey under the pretext of protecting the Iraqi Kurdish citizens is no more than a cover to conspire against Iraq, threaten its sovereignty and national unity, and maintain the unfair embargo imposed on it.

In a statement to INA today, Tariq 'Aziz said that experience also confirmed that the suspect presence created troubles for Turkey, which approved this presence. This fact is widely confirmed by Turkish political and parliamentary quarters.

The deputy prime minister added: The declared pretext, which the Turkish Government uses to renew the presence of these troops, is the claim that Iraq may carry out military action in the northern part of the country which would, according to the alleged scenario, force Iraqi Kurdish citizens to flee toward Turkey and, consequently, threaten Turkey's security.

Tariq 'Aziz noted that this scenario is fabricated, baseless, and unfounded. He stressed that Iraq is the only country in the region to recognize the legitimate national rights of its Kurdish citizens. He said that Iraq is also the only country that has set a political peaceful program to resolve the Kurdish question since 1970 and is the only country that applied autonomy in the region inhabited by Kurdish citizens.

The deputy prime minister said the current situation in the autonomous region in northern Iraq is not the result of any past or potential Iraqi military activity. Instead, he said, it is the result of U.S. military and political intervention that forced the Kurdish parties — which, together with the Americans, are responsible for bringing about this abnormal situation — to end the dialogue with the leadership in 1991, thus leading to the current situation.

Tariq 'Aziz said that when large-scale battles flared between the feuding factions in the region and caused the deaths of several hundred people and great damage to the civilian installations, the Council of Ministers urged in a statement in January that these factions stop fighting and start a dialogue with the leadership in order to resolve the outstanding problems and enhance the country's national unity. 'Aziz said that invitation is still valid. He said this confirms that the Iraqi leadership is pursuing the course of dialogue and a peaceful and democratic solution, and that ending the U.S. military presence in Turkey is a key element to provide the peaceful and democratic conditions needed to restore conditions in northern Iraq back to normal.

Rabin: 'Little Chance' of Agreement by 1 Jul

TA1906104295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is warning the Palestinians that if they do not agree to reach an accord only on a partial redeployment in the West Bank for now, there is very little chance that an agreement can be signed by 1 July. The premier appeared before a joint meeting of two Knesset committees on the issue of redeployment and spoke to reporters afterwards. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Less than two weeks before 1 July and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says an elementary difference in approach remains between Israel and the Palestinians. The prime minister and defense minister appeared this morning before a joint session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense and Finance Committees on the Israeli army's redeployment.

Emerging from the meeting, Prime Minister Rabin said the Palestinians would be making a mistake if they continued to insist on reaching an agreement on a complete military redeployment by Israel before elections are held for the Palestinian self-rule council. If they do insist on such, the premier warned, there would be very little chance of reaching an agreement at all on the 1 July target date. Therefore, Rabin told reporters, we would want to reach an understanding to deal with the first stage of redeployment and to reach an agreement on that by 1 July or thereabouts.

The prime minister apparently referred to a limited redeployment, which would include a pullout from a few of the main Palestinian population centers. Rabin says talks on the second half of redeployment would take place only after the establishment of the Palestinian council. Rabin repeated that this next phase, which includes Judaea and Samaria, does not require a withdrawal, as already implemented in the Gaza Strip, but a redeployment of forces.

The prime minister said he is most interested now in reaching an agreement on redeployment by 1 July. As to how long the process would take, Rabin responded that carrying out the redeployment would have a timetable of its own, but he was not prepared to elaborate. [end recording]

Sees Elections 4-5 Months After Agreement

TA1806163495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The weekly cabinet meeting was in progress when the prime minister's military aide Dani Yatom arrived to inform Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of this morning's incident in south Lebanon. Rabin then gave the ministers sketchy details of the event.

After the meeting, Minister Gonen Segev called for linking future negotiations with Syria with al-Asad's action against south Lebanese terror. Segev was the only advocate of this approach. Here is what Ministers Ya'ir Tzaban and 'Uzi Bar'am said:

[Begin recording] [Bar'am] I am against the linkage, because I believe that if the negotiations with Syria are successful, the Hizballah activities will be affected anyway. I am against obstructing the negotiations at this time, because they may guarantee our security in Lebanon.

[Tzaban] Such linkage is what the terrorists are seeking. I think that, as the prime minister said, what we need is to reach a peace arrangement with Syria that would include security, because that is the only way to achieve a radical resolution of the situation in south Lebanon. [end recording]

Minister Shim'on Shetrit was also opposed to a linkage, but he was for conveying a sharp message to al-Asad, saying he cannot simultaneously maintain two fronts — negotiations on the one hand and war and terrorism on the other. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Israeli-PLO negotiations on the interim arrangement, Yitzhaq Rabin said that there are still numerous problems and that they cannot be solved within the allocated time limits. This means, the prime minister said, that the agreement on an interim arrangement in Judaea and Samaria will not be concluded by 1 July. Rabin further said elections in the territories will be held four to five months after the agreement is signed. [passage omitted]

Rabin: No Settlements Evacuation During 1st Stage

TA1906100995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rabin says that no Jewish settlement will be uprooted and relocated during the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria population centers. The prime minister made these remarks to our correspondent Eytan Almog following a joint session of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees which dealt with the IDF redeployment plan, known as Spectrum B.

After the session, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told our correspondent that during the first stage Mr.

Rabin intends to pull the IDF out of Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah. Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron are slated to be evacuated at a later stage. According to Netanyahu these places will become terror hothouses, adding that by acting in this manner the prime minister is forsaking the security of Israel.

Mr. Rabin reacted to the allegations by saying that there are some people who are incapable of recognizing the changes on the ground and incapable of changing the situation.

Rabin Told IDF Cannot Meet Redeployment Timetable

TA1806095595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will evacuate Ramallah and Bethlehem in April-May 1996. This came about in a new plan the IDF drafted for its redeployment in the West Bank. According to the plan, the IDF will pull out of Janin, Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm between 1 and 15 November 1995. The plan, drafted by the IDF over the recent days, was presented to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last weekend.

In internal IDF discussions — attended by Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command; IDF commanders and heads of the defense establishment; and the prime minister — it has been said that the IDF will not have enough time to build all the bypass roads needed within the framework of the redeployment and provide the security element for the settlers due to the complex bureaucratic procedures this requires. These problems might cause a delay in meeting the timetable. A report along these lines has also been relayed to the Palestinian Authority [PA].

The IDF is currently near the completion of staff work, the main point of which is cutting through red tape concerning seizing land for the construction of the bypass roads in the West Bank as part of the IDF redeployment plan, known as Spectrum B.

The participants in the discussions stated that the cumbersome process of seizing land is problematic. Obtaining a land seizure order requires the approval of dozens of government, IDF, and legal bodies, and the opinion and signature of the command commander. The cumbersome process impairs on in meeting the timetables. It has been suggested in the discussions that the official process be cut short, and that the plan be approved by only 20 government bodies instead of the current 40.

According to the redeployment plan, 10 to 20 bypass roads will be built to serve the settlers so that they are not forced to travel through Palestinian territory. Some of the roads are needed immediately, including the Janin bypass road which will allow a safe passage for the settlers in Ganim and Kadim, and the Ramallah bypass designed to allow Psagot settlers to travel to and from the settlement without crossing al-Bira.

Another problem Rabin was presented with was security measures for the settlements that will include, among other things, fences, ramparts, and lamp posts. The IDF top brass told Rabin that the timetable is too tight, and they fear they will not be able to meet it. They presented several possible solutions, such as cutting the procedure for choosing the contractors who will build the roads and cutting through land seizure red tape. The prime minister said that the information the army presented him was insufficient and asked the officers to study the issues again and come back with new details. According to Rabin, the matters of Israelis traveling through the territories and security measures must be reexamined.

In the discussions attended by Rabin, the army criticized the government for not appointing a liaison with the IDF, while the army appointed Major General Matan Vilna'i, deputy chief of staff and head of Spectrum B, as its liaison with the government. Gen. Biran said that the government offices are not treating the integrative aspect of the redeployment properly. The army must court the ministries instead of cooperating with them, Biran said.

Regarding the budget for the redeployment plan, the army heads said that they insist it will cost some 1 billion shekels. The Treasury has indeed decided to give the army 300 million shekels as an advance payment, but has not yet delivered the full sum. The government will discuss this issue today within the framework its budgetary discussion.

Senior army sources have said that the prime minister understood that the IDF is not ready yet for the redeployment and that there are many problems and delays, but "it all depends on the prime minister." According to a military source, if Rabin orders that procedures be cut and instructs the Finance Ministry to funnel the money, the predetermined timetables could be met.

Shahal on Border Town Security, Settler Conduct

TA1706130895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Police Minister Moshe Shahal caused a stir this week when he said he was not sure security could be guaranteed for Israelis who live alongside Judaea and Samaria, following an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. Shahal, whose separation plan is yet to receive final approval, warned that as things stand, he is not ready to take responsibility for their safety. But in this interview with Alan Ben-'Ami, the police minister says his remarks were misunderstood. Shahal says he intended only to stress the need for decisions to be taken quickly regarding what security measures will be carried out by the army and police as a result of the redeployment in the West Bank.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] I am worried about the timetable. I would certainly prefer that the discussions will be simultaneously together with the plans of the IDF together with our plans, and I wanted to just convey the need to accelerate the process. My duty as a minister concerns internal security within the State of Israel, and it is my duty to be worried. I have to make it my major concern — I would say it is probably my first concern — to give the security that is needed for every citizen within the State of Israel, while the IDF is responsible for the settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. And I think there is a need to discuss the two plans simultaneously. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] And, again this week, we have also seen the initial reaction of settlers in the West Bank toward what they feel is a dangerous situation for them — the pullout of Israeli troops. They say they are going to take over areas which the IDF will move out of. They've started talking about trying to set up new settlements, new neighborhoods. Do you anticipate there is going to be some very serious confrontation between them and the government, the authorities, the army?

[Shahal] It is not going to be easy. Probably there will be confrontation, but all of the security forces — the army and the police — will not accept any acts that are not in the proper way and in the due process and the lawful way to do it. Demonstration — certainly yes, but anything outside the scope of a democratic country will not be tolerated.

I believe that if they will know about the security measures taken and presented by the army, they will see that a lot of efforts and huge sums of money are going to be invested to protect them with the best security that can be given to any citizen. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] Everyone is talking about the peace process. It's not only the Palestinian, it's also the Syrian track. There's an air of optimism now about negotiations moving forward with Syria. Do you share that?

[Shahal] I never considered myself an optimist or a pessimist. I am a realist, and I think, being a realist, that there is no alternative but to have a peace agreement between Syria and Israel. I think that both sides know the frame of what they are willing to give and what they are expecting to gain, and going on with the process and the meetings of the chiefs of staff bring hope that there will be a possibility to conclude an agreement till the end of 1995. [end recording]

Irish Foreign Minister Arrives on First Visit

Rejects Appeals on Orient House

TA1806052995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian issue threatens to disrupt the extraordinary first visit to Israel by Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister and deputy prime minister.

Spring has decided to reject all the appeals made by the Israeli Government and to visit the Orient House in East Jerusalem. Spring arrived in Israel yesterday and was met by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid who advised him to reconsider his plans, which have aroused great displeasure in Israel.

Sarid nevertheless expressed reservations with Police Minister Moshe Shahal's call to cancel trips by foreign dignitaries who wish to visit the Orient House.

Peres on Spring's Orient House Visit

TA1806113095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is now meeting his Irish counterpart Dick Spring in Jerusalem against the backdrop of the Irish minister's decision to visit the Orient House tomorrow.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz spoke with Foreign Minister Peres prior to the meeting. The foreign minister first commented on the tension along Israel's northern border.

[Begin recording] [Peres] One must never hand control of the decisionmaking process over to terrorists or shooters. It goes without saying that one must not place the fate of the negotiations in the hands of Hizballah. However, Syria's attention must also be drawn to the agreement it reached with the United States. We are doing this.

[Raz] Are they doing enough, sir?

[Peres] I do not like to give grades. It is never enough. One can always do more.

[Raz] I would like to ask you about the issue that brings you to the King David Hotel. I am referring to your meeting with the Irish visitor. He has to all intents and purposes rejected the appeals made by the Israeli Government and by you personally not to visit Orient House. The issue was also discussed at today's cabinet session. You expressed profound dissatisfaction with the remarks made by some of your colleagues on the subject.

[Peres] One must distinguish between the formal and informal side of things. An appeal was submitted to the High Court of Justice on 16 June against the Irish foreign minister's visit to Orient House. The court ruled that there was no room for its intervention. In other words, the High Court rejected the appeal. Formally, negotiations should not be conducted at Orient House between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and visitors. If this indeed takes place, we will initiate legal proceedings. There is no legal prohibition against making a courtesy call on Orient House; and such visits have been conducted by several foreign ministers including the present one. We advise all visiting ministers to refrain from this but we have no legal authority to stop them.

[Raz] But the police minister has called for far-reaching steps, up to the point of boycotting the visit and refusing to meet the Irish minister.

[Peres] Okay, that is the opinion of the police minister. I am not sure that foreign affairs fall within the framework of his responsibilities.

[Raz] And you told him as much at the cabinet meeting. You basically corrected him.

[Peres] Yes, I put him straight.

[Raz] Thank you very much. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 18 June reports that "the Irish foreign minister said that his visit to Orient House was a courtesy call following an invitation from the Palestinians. The visiting minister added that the ongoing policy of the EU and Ireland was to maintain an attitude of equality toward the Palestinians and Israel."]

Peres Criticizes Call for 'Boycott'

TA1806095695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has criticized Police Minister Moshe Shahal's call for a boycott of the visit by Irish Deputy Prime Minister Dick Spring because of the Irish official's decision to visit the Orient House.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reported that at today's cabinet session, Foreign Minister Peres said that he was mainly angered by what he called Shahal's proclivity to air these issues in public.

Spring Meets Gur, Comments on Orient House

TA1806110195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ireland's Foreign Minister Dick Spring says he will hold talks with Palestinians at Orient House during his official visit to Israel despite Israeli protests and President Weizman's decision not to meet Spring if he goes to Orient House. Spring met with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur this morning, who conveyed Israeli feelings about Orient House to his visitor. But, after their meeting, the Irish foreign minister told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that despite the controversy, his visit to Orient House is still on.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] This morning's meeting with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur marked the first official engagement for Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring during his visit here. The talks centered on the peace process, particularly with regard to Syria and Lebanon where Ireland has troops serving with UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon]. Nevertheless, Mordekhay Gur felt himself bound at the beginning of their meeting to refer to the controversy surrounding Spring's planned visit to Orient House. And it was the focus of reporters' questions to the Irishman after the meeting ended; an issue that Spring clearly would have preferred not to discuss.

[Spring] Well, I think that it is difficult for politicians not to have controversy at times. I am hopefully coming here on behalf of the Irish Government to deal in an even-handed way in relation to the concerns in this region. We want to be helpful. We are friendly I believe to the peoples of this region, and we want to continue to be so.

[Ben-'Ami] So why the Orient House? Why not visit Chairman 'Arafat in Gaza for example or in Jericho?

[Spring] I am in fact visiting Mr. 'Arafat in Gaza.

[Ben-'Ami] So again why the Orient House? What does this add to your visit?

[Spring] Well, the situation is that it is on my itinerary. We have negotiated my itinerary with both sides and that is my itinerary and I am sticking to it.

[Ben-'Ami] Deputy Defense Minister Gur diplomatically tried to focus the questions back to the main subject of his meeting with the Irish foreign minister while getting his point over at the same time.

[Gur] Jerusalem is ours, and there was no reason whatsoever to discuss Jerusalem here. I can understand some of the questions that you have presented but there was no doubt that the main talk was that Israel has to remain, without any action against Israel. We want the northern part of Israel to be as quiet as possible, and we want Jerusalem ours. All the rest was not of any importance [word indistinct].

[Ben-'Ami] As to Lebanon and the peace process, the Irish foreign minister said his country will be ready to consider any new role for Irish troops with the United Nations in Lebanon, if a peace agreement should require it.

[Spring] The Irish Government are quite happy to support the United Nations in relation to the UNIFIL role. We obviously are concerned for the safety of our troops at all times and there have been difficulties in the past. I hope that there will not be such difficulties in the future. If there is a new role for UNIFIL in the wake of the peace process, the Irish Government would consider its part as necessary. But our primary interest is the support in the peace process and being supportive of UNIFIL. [end recording]

Spring, Rabin Discuss Syria, Lebanon

TA1806180495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, the prime minister is pointing a finger at Damascus, saying that if incidents such as the one that took place today continue on the northern border, it will be difficult to convince Israel that it has a partner for peace, as arms reach Hizballah from Iran through Syria. This is what the prime minister said this evening to the Irish foreign minister currently visiting Jerusalem. Mr. Rabin noted that what is happening in southern Lebanon does not help the establishment of trust between Israel and Syria. This was reported by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik.

Spring: al-Asad 'Optimistic' About Peace

TA1906100195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 95 p A4

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is concerned about "the role played by U.S. Jewry in the peace process." This was related by Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring during his political meetings in Jerusalem yesterday. Spring arrived in Israel after a visit to Damascus, where he met al-Asad and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Spring said he gained the impression that al-Asad was optimistic about the peace process and believes that the United States keenly desires to wrap up the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. At the same time, al-Asad expressed concern over the activity of U.S. Jewry regarding the negotiations.

Al-Shar' told Spring he attributes great importance to the chiefs of staff talks slated to commence in Washington next week and hopes they bear positive results. He expressed the hope that, notwithstanding the great Israeli concern about the security arrangements, progress toward political arrangements can be made. Al-Shar' made it clear to Spring that Syria "is referring to an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 line — no more and no less than that."

Georgia's Shevardnaze Arrives, Meets With Weizman

TA1806155695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgia's President Eduard Shevardnaze has arrived in Israel on a state visit and is currently meeting with President Weizman at the president's residence. There are traffic jams in the streets near the residence as a result of the visit.

Says Georgia To Open Jerusalem Embassy

TA1906103295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgia will open an embassy in Jerusalem by the end of the year. This was stated by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze during a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin in Jerusalem.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz says that during the meeting, the two countries signed agreements in the fields of communications, postal services, agriculture, and culture. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Peres and Communications, Science and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni.

Shevardnadze invited Mr. Rabin to hold a reciprocal visit to Tbilisi. The two countries also decided to improve their bilateral economic relations.

PA Said Controlling East Jerusalem Education System

TA1706111995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 16 June publishes on pages 2, 3, and 4 of its

SHABAT supplement a 3,000-word article by Nadav Ha'etzni entitled "The Palestinians Are Giving Us a Lesson." Ha'etzni writes that the next Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Jerusalem will be over control of the city's education system. The article "reveals for the first time" that the Palestinians have been conducting "a quiet battle over the education system in East Jerusalem for over a year, ever since 'Arafat's men assumed responsibility for education in the West Bank" and "scored a major success."

The article describes several ceremonies held last weekend to mark the end of the school year in East Jerusalem schools. The schools were decorated with PLO flags, pictures of Yasir 'Arafat, and maps of "Palestine" which do not mention Israeli settlements, cities, or communities, and give geographic sites inside Israel proper their Arabic name. Some of the ceremonies were attended by Palestinian Authority [PA] Education Minister Yasir 'Amr, Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', Faysal al-Husayni, and Ramzi Huri, 'Arafat's bureau chief, " who said he came on behalf of the president."

The article states that there are some 48,000 Palestinian students in East Jerusalem. Half of them study at schools that belong to the municipality and are financed by the Israeli Ministry of Education, and the other half attend privately owned schools, "some Christian, some belonging to the Waqf, and others that are completely private." The private education sector "is currently fully under the control of the Palestinian Ministry of Education situated in Ramallah," but the other half "is also dominated by the Palestinians." Until last August, the Civil Administration was in charge of education in the West Bank. Then, when the PA assumed the education powers, it automatically assumed the Civil Administration duties regarding the East Jerusalem students. The PA logo currently appears on all the examination forms and diplomas it prints and issues.

Interviewed in his Ramallah office last week, 'Amr stated that the PA operations in East Jerusalem will continue and that he intends to open an office in Jerusalem soon. He argued this is no provocation, saying that "after all, even the residents of Jerusalem want to belong to the PA, whether Israel likes it or not." Asked about the Palestinian reaction if Israel were to attempt to cut off Jerusalem from the PA education system, 'Amr says: "Israel would be making a mistake if it did this. Rabin tried to seize 450 dunams of Palestinian land and failed. There is international and Israeli public opinion, and if Mayor Ehud Olmert or Rabin tries to stop us, they would be making a grave mistake. You cannot force one nationality to accept the rule of another. Jerusalem is our capital, and Palestinian education in it is an inseparable part of our existence on this earth."

In a box insert, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert says that he is aware of the situation, and that he had warned against it when he first became mayor, "but nothing has been done. When Rabin says Jerusalem will remain united, he is only uttering fine words." He charges that "the government is totally capitulating on the issue of Jerusalem, and the education issue is a very good example." He adds that he is "seriously considering using certain powers that I have to stop their takeover of the education system, but the government is holding the key, and it must act."

In the same box, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein rejects Olmert's claims and, although he too is worried by the situation, he claims that the solution to the problem is not in his hands. "I am not happy with the picture you presented here," he tells Ha'etzni, "but do not think that I do not know what the Palestinians are trying to do here. I do not think that we are losing sovereignty over Jerusalem. What is happening is that a personal affiliation with the Palestinian identity is being established here. I support the consensus that Jerusalem must stay united under Israeli sovereignty. We have to consider Palestinian interests in the final arrangement, but not at the expense of our sovereignty."

Rabin Meets U.S. Ambassador on Hizballah Attacks

TA1806043195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is demanding that Syria take action to prevent katyusha rockets from being fired into Israeli territory.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin explained to U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk that Israel takes a very grave view of the katyusha firings and noted that Syria was a party to the understandings reached after Operation Accountability.

The United States has approached Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the matter.

Rabin Receives Reports on Syrian Action on Hizballah

TA1906095595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that only a peace agreement with Syria will solve Israel's security problems along the border with Lebanon and put an end to Hizballah's guerrilla warfare against Israel. Two reports which reached the prime minister's desk in recent years have strengthened this assessment.

One report quoted Syrian sources as saying that as soon as the Golan Heights issue was resolved, the Syrians would stop all anti- Israeli activities from Lebanon by Hizballah and the Palestinian rejectionist groups. The second report noted the practical steps Syria had taken to restrain Hizballah activities in Lebanon, such as confiscating weapons.

Over the past two months, there has been an exacerbation in military activity in south Lebanon from the part of both sides. Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq last week told the cabinet that Hizballah had changed its reaction mode to SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] strikes against Shiite villages in south Lebanon and now retaliated by firing katyusha rockets.

Senior Israeli officials said yesterday that "Hizballah was becoming more trigger-happy." The officials said that the policy of pinpointed strikes against Hizballah adopted by Major General 'Amiram Levin, the commander of the Northern Command, had dealt the organization some painful blows and caused the death of dozens of Hizballah fighters in recent months. "When they are hurting, they have to show they are retaliating in some way," the officials said. "That is why they fired four katyusha rockets at Israel."

According to the officials, Hizballah is being very careful to refrain from any gross violation of the understandings reached following Operation Accountability, which prohibit any attacks against civilian settlements on either side, whether in Israel or outside the security zone. The katyushas were in retaliation for SLA attacks on Lebanese villages. Israel has made great efforts to reign in the SLA and maintain tighter control over it. Hizballah, for its part, fears an angry response by Syria, which is committed to the Operation Accountability understandings.

Rabin sent a tough message to Syria on 16 June, through Martin Indyk, the U.S. ambassador to Israel. On numerous occasions, Israel has proposed to the Syrians to agree on security arrangements in south Lebanon or to reach an interim accord with Beirut, which would include an Israeli withdrawal in exchange for the disarming of Hizballah and guarantees for the continued safety and wellbeing of the SLA forces and the residents of the security zone.

Israel has made some enticing proposals to the Syrians. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Syria will receive control over Lebanon and that "al-Asad will get more than al-Sadat did." Rabin has reluctantly accepted Syria's demand to put off negotiations with Lebanon until the issue of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights is resolved; however, Israel continues to propose reaching bilateral arrangements with Lebanon.

During his visit to Paris last week, Rabin asked French leaders to mediate in the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel. France has a historical commitment to Lebanon's independence and French leaders address this issue often. Rabin reiterated his old proposal to his French counterpart Alain Juppe: an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone following the disarming of Hizballah and a nine-month test period, during which the Lebanese Army deploys in the south.

Juppe replied: "The Lebanese are ready to accept this, on condition that Israel issues a public pledge to withdraw from their land." Rabin: "But I have proposed this publicly on numerous occasions." In a similar conversation with President Jacques Chirac, Rabin proposed inviting the Lebanese to negotiate. Chirac did not respond.

There is a great deal of frustration in Lebanon over being pushed out of the peace process by Syria, which has vetoed Lebanon's participation in the talks. Reports from Lebanese sources reaching Jerusalem state: "Syria is at the top of the hate list in Lebanon today, much more so than Israel. Israel is only perceived of as a military threat while Syria threatens Lebanon's very existence."

Lubrani on Hizballah 'Terror,' Syrian Inaction

TA1806170195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by correspondent Shalom Oren; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Oren] Good day to you, Uri Lubrani. Everyone talks about military solutions to the situation in Lebanon, while you talk of political solutions.

[Lubrani] I believe that ultimately speaking there is no military solution to our situation in Lebanon today. I think the solution must be political, but as long as such a solution does not exist, we should do exactly what the commander of the Northern Command explained.

[Oren] What should we do then, adopt massive measures or attack Hizballah?

[Lubrani] I think that today, as in the past, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is doing everything it can to cope with the situation. The price is very heavy, but everything has been done to cope with this situation where there is no political solution. You heard that Hizballah takes advantage of every opportunity to provoke us, to do things that are ultimately intended to disrupt the peace process. If Israel adopts very massive measures, this will be exactly what the Iranians, and Hizballah through them, want to achieve, namely to disrupt or torpedo the peace process. I think we should be very cautious not to fall into this trap, despite the very heavy price we are paying.

[Oren] Still, the direct, influential rulers in southern Lebanon are the Syrians, who are almost fully capable of preventing Hizballah activities. They are also at an advanced stage of negotiations with us apparently, but they do not seem to do anything.

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that had they wanted to, the Syrians could have prevented Hizballah's activity. This is part of the negotiations with the Syrians. I believe we should — and this has been done — explain to the Syrians that it is impossible to tolerate a situation whereby they conduct negotiations on their track while they let such things happen in Lebanon. This runs counter to the understandings achieved among them, the Americans, and us.

[Oren] Why do they not do this as a goodwill gesture, at least?

[Lubrani] I do not expect any goodwill gestures from Syria.

[Oren] In other words, they will not do anything before the conclusion of the negotiations and the achievement of a final accord.

[Lubrani] I hope they will do something, but I want to be realistic. I do not expect this to happen.

[Oren] Why?

[Lubrani] This is simply the Syrians' style of negotiations. They are tough, inconsiderate, and desirous of hurting us so long as they do not get what they want to get from us.

[Oren] What is the Americans' role in this?

[Lubrani] I am sure they understand our predicament. I think that the prime minister clarified our position about Hizballah's conduct and deviations from the understandings. I think the Americans want and will do all they can to diminish, if not to completely stop, this phenomenon.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 18 June broadcasts further remarks by Uri Lubrani who adds that "on Friday [16 June], Israel appealed to the Syrians via the Americans to stop the shooting at Jazzin, and the shooting indeed stopped in the wake of the Americans' intervention. Uri Lubrani emphasized that after the arrangements with the Syrians take effect, it will be necessary to approach the Iranians, too, so as to put an end to Hizballah's activities."]

IDF Confirms Death of 3 Soldiers in Lebanon

TA1806153995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed this morning and three others were wounded in a terrorist attack on an IDF force carrying out operational activities in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. The fallen soldiers' next of kin have been notified.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an IDF force, which was involved in operational activity in the Tibnin pass area in the eastern sector of the security zone this morning, came under fire from light weapons, antitank rockets, and mortars. One of the soldiers sustained moderate injuries from shrapnel, mainly in the lower part of his body. He underwent surgery and was hospitalized in Rambam Hospital's orthopedic ward. Two other soldiers were hospitalized in Zefat with slight injuries.

Major General 'Amiram Levin, the Northern Command chief, says the attacked IDF unit's response was very proper in that it immediately returned fire, charged at the terrorists, and hit several of them. However, two mortar shells were fired toward the end of the incident, killing three soldiers and wounding three of their comrades.

Gen. Levin warned Hizballah, saying Israel will not allow its citizens and the south Lebanese civilians to be held hostage. The Northern Command chief further said that the Syrians wield power over Hizballah, but that the latter is trying to score political gains in Lebanon before peace agreements are signed. Gen. Levin's remarks, made at a news conference, were reported by our correspondent in the north Ilan Ro'e.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 18 June carries a report by correspondent Menahem Horowitz which adds: "Gen. Levin warned both Hizballah and the inhabitants of Lebanon north of the security zone who collaborate with terrorists." Levin says in a recorded passage: "This time, too, the terrorists fired out of villages — out of Tibnin and out of a house in al-Nabatiyah." He goes on to say that "this method of firing out of villages, of taking villagers hostage, will be of no avail, because when we decide to seek them out and harm them, when we need to protect our soldiers, we will strike them wherever they are." Levin is cited as saying that "250 gunfire incidents have taken place in south Lebanon over the past six months."]

Levi on New Party, Plan To Run for Prime Minister

TA1806183395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] David Levi tonight announced the establishment of a new party. He also announced that he will run for prime minister and noted that the new party's slate will be assembled in about a year. David Levi announced that tomorrow morning volunteers will begin collecting 50,000 signatures for the elections, although he believed the new party will muster at least three times that number of voters.

Levi said the new party will raise the banner of social equality. The new party, he said, carries a message for every Israeli, and it will unite around the concept of equality and the Eretz Yisra'el issue. Levi promised to criticize the government for its failures, but not to the extent of taking extreme steps that jeopardize national unity.

David Levi's speech opened with a reference to the political situation. He called on the prime minister to discontinue the political talks if terror does not stop.

Our correspondents report that Levi's convention, held at the Renaissance Halls in Giv'atayim, was attended by a large and varied crowd which responded excitedly to the speech. Fourteen local council heads participated in the convention. The convention was officially adjourned some thirty minutes ago, after which David Levi left the premises.

Likud MK Yehoshu'a Matza said in reaction that David Levi should know he cannot be both inside and outside the party. He noted, however, that the Likud faction has not yet given thought to what should be done in the wake of David Levi's announcement. Yehoshu'a Matza defined the situation as a man's personal lust for power, which resulted in a breach in the national front.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 18 June reports that in a reaction to David Levi's announcement, Binyamin Netanyahu says on that he respects Levi's wish, adding: "Today we heard about the death of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers on the Lebanese border. There are families who currently hear the terrible news that their children will not return home as a result of the murderous campaign conducted by Syria through its Hizballah proxies in order to press this submissive government into caving in even more. I think that this calls for all forces of the national camp, of this nation, of this land, to be enlisted to curb this danger and save the country. This is what everyone should do today. This is what I intend to do."]

Parties React to Levi Split; SHAS Critical

TA1906103795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jun 95 p 10

[Report by Arye Bender and 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The government, headed by Rabin, and the Labor Party will view David Levi and his party as welcome leadership partners. In his outlook, Levi has been close to Labor since his days as a construction worker," Knesset Member Ra'anan Kohen, chairman of the Labor faction, said yesterday.

Dr. Efrayim Sne, the health minister, said: "It was an important event. If such a party is indeed established, it will diminish the Likud's power."

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid: "It left me totally indifferent. I could not muster any enthusiasm. There are 16 more months before the elections; we'll see."

[A report by Uri Binder on the same page adds: "Senior SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] officials last night scorned David Levi." "A senior source told MA'ARIV: 'The facts speak for themselves. More supporters monitored a minor SHAS gathering in an obscure Negev moshav yesterday than his convention for which the media had made such preparations. David Levi should realize that not many people identify with his direction.'"]

Levi Says No Plan To Quit Likud

TA1906113395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member [MK] David Levi today informed MK Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, that he still considers himself a member of the Likud faction and that he does not plan any action to quit it. MK Levi also said he is not making any conditions and that he considers himself partner to all Likud faction votes.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that after their meeting, MK Qatzav said he is happy that David Levi is still a partner to all opposition moves against the government. He emphasized, however, that the new situation must be checked from the legal point of view.

Daily: U.S. 'Lies' About Iraq Emanate From Amman

JN1806125095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Jun 95 p 24

[From the "Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "They Have Chosen Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was natural for U.S. intelligence to make its lies on Iraq from Amman. This is because Jordan is the Iraqi crossing to the world, where correspondents can use full sentences, such as: Arrivals from Baghdad said, or eyewitnesses mentioned.

Jordan has special feelings toward Iraq and the Iraqis, something which gives the hostile psychological warfare a kind of credibility. Moreover, Jordan is a democratic country from which news media can send their dispatches without control. If in carrying reports on "battles," the news media quoted Iraqi opposition members in a fraternal country who obtained their information through telephone contacts with Iraq, then these are blind news media. This is because telephone communications between Iraq and this fraternal country have been cut for 15 years, the border posts do not exist, and the two countries' diplomats do not know the two capitals.

Many things could happen in Iraq. A five-year blockade could even turn Britain or France into a Rwanda, and the U.S. and Arab oil countries' funds which are allocated to destroy Iraq are sufficient to create revolutions in the United States itself. Let us recall the Los Angeles incidents several years ago which took place without any foreign interference or financing.

We used to read the Russian writers' stories about the conditions of university teachers who were detained at concentration camps in Siberia and how a university teacher, under the pressure of psychological and physical exhaustion, hunger, and cold, stole from his colleague a piece of bread or boots which were better than his. We read how these two university teachers fought each other until they bled from the mouth or the nose for the sake of a piece of bread or better boots.

Under the pressure of basic needs, man will do anything, even if he is a cultured person, an intellectual, or a distinguished person. We know the size of basic needs in Iraq of abundance, generosity, loftiness, and Arabism. But it is the blockade, the international terrorism, helplessness, and the Arab cowardice which should be denounced. Those who are happy with the news of the "battles," which U.S. intelligence says have taken place in Abu Gharib, are the only ones who should be disdained. Those who promote such news are infidels and promoters of infidelity.

The hostile intelligence, "the battle makers" in the news media, constitutes the other part of the armies of aggression which launched a third world war against Iraq.

Let us remember, U.S. intelligence has launched its psychological warfare against Iraq from Jordan.

NATO Considering Security Partnership With Country

MM1906095995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi: "NATO Considering Including Jordan in Mediterranean Partnership"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels — NATO yesterday resumed its contacts vis-a-vis establishing a Mediterranean security partnership comprised of Israel and four Arab states: Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania.

A well-informed NATO source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that Jordan, too, could join [the partnership] later, even though the alliance's general secretariat does not see Amman as a traditional part of the Mediterranean region.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published a report on 1 June saying that NATO had signed a secret agreement with five Mediterranean states to achieve a security partnership. Morocco denied its intention to join this partnership, while Libya vehemently attacked the agreement, calling for it to be thwarted.

It is noted that NATO's contacts with the four Arab states and Israel began in Brussels at ambassadorial level early this year, and they will resume at the foreign minister level in October. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Meets Yeltsin Envoy on Ties, Peace

JN1806171395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Yeltsin's envoy, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and means to develop them in various fields. They also reviewed developments in the peace process in the region.

Mr. Posuvalyuk iterated Russia's support for efforts to achieve peace in this region in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace process. He voiced his optimism over progress achieved on various negotiating tracks, noting that since the Madrid conference, Russia sought to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in this important part of the world.

The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and the Russian ambassador accredited to the Royal Hashemite Court.

Prince Hasan Meets Multilateral Talks Delegates

JN1506193795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 15 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has called for invigorating multilateral Middle East peace talks, which he said would lay the foundations of just and permanent regional peace.

Prince Hasan told a meeting of cabinet ministers and chief delegates to multilateral work groups that it was vital to build a regional order for rehabilitation of the Middle East and North Africa that would encompass all regional states.

During the meeting at the prime minister's office, the crown prince gave his instructions to negotiators at the multilaterals, including a meeting of the Water Works Group to be held in Amman next week.

Prince Hasan said environment, energy, and water projects should be submitted along with other development projects to the Amman Middle East, North Africa economic development summit due for late October. Prince Hasan also told the meeting Jordan was the first to propose a global humanitarian order in international fora.

Jordanian delegates to the five work groups on the issues of water, the environment, refugees, arms control, and security, as well as economic development had earlier reported on previous negotiations and the new negotiating strategy.

Economist Says Market More Competitive; Data Cited

JN1806072695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jun 95 p 6

[Article by Fahd al-Fanik: "Economic Recession Dead; Jordanian Market Getting More Competitive"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a news analysis which appeared in AL-RA'Y newspaper on February 18, I argued against an economic recession in Jordan. The stress of the argument was the fact that the Jordanian economy was growing at a rate close to 5 per cent, and that most macro indicators of the Jordanian economy were giving positive readings.

At the time I admitted that there may be a sort of recession or slowdown in the trading sector and the stock exchange in particular. Imports showed no growth in 1994, therefore we can appreciate the complaints of the traders in the wholesale and retail business. Share prices were declining for almost 18 months.

Aside from those two negative indicators, all other signs showed a healthy economic growth: Deficits in trade balance and current account were in decline, unemployment was stable despite the big numbers of new entrants to the labour market, per capita income was improving, the exchange rate of the JD was stable, the budget performance was healthy as deficit continued to decline according to the programme, new investments were running high, occupancy in hotels was high indicating an active tourism, building and construction were satisfactory as reflected in the higher consumption of cement in the local market.

We can now update the state of affairs of the Jordanian economy to find that all the positive indicators continued and even the two indicators that were giving negative readings, namely trade and share prices, started to give positive readings, which means that the economic slowdown started to vanish, giving rise to a measure of economic activity, not to mention relative prosperity.

Available figures for actual foreign trade performance during the first quarter of this year indicate that domestic exports grew at 24.3 per cent, re-export increased by 14.2 per cent, i.e., gross exports were 22.1 per cent higher than they were during the same period of 1994.

On the other hand, imports during the first three months of this year rose by a solid 23.7 per cent over the same period of the past year.

The above figures prove beyond doubt that the trading growth has gone too far, that trade deficit worsened, which reflected badly on the net reserves of foreign exchange in the Central Bank. It became desirable now to check imports.

As far as the stock exchange is concerned, share prices rose since then by 14 per cent, but did not yet reach the peak point attained in the spring of 1993, it is evident that the trend is moving in the right direction despite the inevitable fluctuations from time to time.

When we pronounce economic recession dead at the macro level, we don't deny that certain shops, firms and companies are, at the micro level, in bad shape and suffering. The Jordanian economy is becoming more dynamic. There are new units entering the market forcefully and may displace the outdated units which fail to develop and improve. If an operator of a restaurant complained that he is receiving less customers, this should not necessarily be due to a recession. Simply there are many new restaurants which are more efficient and attractive, which took his customers and left him in the cold.

The Jordanian market is obviously getting more and more competitive. Those who fail to compete will vanish, they may blame recession, but in fact they have themselves and their lack of competitiveness to blame.

Exchange of Products With Palestinians Begins

JN1506201095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 15 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and the Palestine National Authority [PNA] today began exchange of products under agreement signed by the two sides.

Twelve trucks carrying the first shipment of 336 tonnes of cement crossed to Palestinian self-rule areas via the King Husayn Bridge.

The exchange of goods began a month and a half after Jordan and the PNA signed an accord, which exempts these products from customs duty.

Also today, Jordan and the Palestine National Authority signed a draft agricultural protocol defining the exchange of agricultural produce between the two sides.

Under the agreement, Jordan will export to the Palestinian self-rule areas vegetables, fruits, and dairy products and import a number of items.

The two sides also agreed to abide by health specifications adopted in both Jordan and the Palestinian areas.

Paper Welcomes Salih Remarks on Saudi Arabia Ties

JN1806111895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jun 95 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "We Welcome the Yemeni Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After a meeting with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir in Sanaa yesterday, Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who had earlier signed an agreement demarcating the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, said that Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz had informed him that he intends to open a new chapter in Jordanian-Saudi relations, and to promote these relations in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

This statement by the Yemeni president, who recently returned from a successful visit and fruitful talks with the Saudi monarch, is a strong indication of change in the Saudi position, which seems to have recovered from the negative effects of the second Gulf war, and from the unlimited repercussions and misunderstandings of this war.

The best proof of the importance and seriousness of this desired change by the brothers in Saudi Arabia toward Jordan is this change in the Saudi-Yemeni relations themselves and the positive results of the Yemeni president's recent visit to Saudi Arabia. These relations were taking the two countries to the brink of a border war a year ago against the backdrop of misunderstanding resulting from the Gulf war.

This is why President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's statements are very important and in harmony with the current developments in the entire region. These developments prove the importance of reactivating Arab solidarity at this critical stage in the Arab nation's history. This is why we welcome the Yemeni president's statements, and look forward to his expected visit to Jordan and his meeting with his brother His Majesty King Husayn within the framework of what can be considered a Yemeni endeavor to restore Jordanian-Saudi relations to their former level of cooperation, sincere fraternal feelings, and mutual respect.

SLA Stops Hizballah Offensive, Issues Communique

NC1606143395 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops today succeeded in stopping a major offensive launched by the terrorists against the SLA positions in Kurum al-Arz, Tumat Jazzin, the Batir crossing point, and the Jazzin command center. The terrorists pounded the residential areas in Jazzin, Rum, and other villages in the Jazzin area. The SLA troops silenced the sources of fire.

Elsewhere, Israeli warplanes raided the al-Jabbur Hills in western al-Biqa' at 1405 today.

Meanwhile, the SLA command issued the following communique:

A number of terrorist Hizballah groups today attacked several SLA centers in the Jazzin area. Also, residential areas in the town of Jazzin and other villages were subjected to indiscriminate bombardment. Obviously, this bestial bombardment of the Jazzin area demonstrates the Lebanese authorities' premeditated plans to displace the inhabitants of this area and to serve well-known interests.

Therefore, the SLA command believes that it its duty-bound to draw the officials' attention to the grave consequences of their deeds. The SLA warns them that the inhabitants of Jazzin will not alone be displaced. The SLA is in a position to retaliate doubly and to make the displacement include many other southern villages if the unjustified attacks on the villages and civilians in the border strip and Jazzin do not stop.

Sources Deny IDF Killed 2 Hizballah Men

TA1706183895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two Hizballah members killed in the south Lebanese village of Majdal Zun were not shot by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], but were apparently killed when a bomb they were carrying exploded, army sources said today. Hizballah claimed yesterday that the two men, Khalil and Radwan Sa'id, were killed when an IDF tank fired at the vehicle they were driving. IDF sources pointed out that no such gunfire had taken place.

Our Army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that terrorists attacked an SLA [South Lebanese Army] position in the western sector this morning. There were no casualties. At midday, IDF artillery shelled terrorist targets in the eastern sector.

Hizballah Official Vows To Retaliate for Attacks

NC1806065895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Responding to the Zionist-Lahdist threats following the air strikes and ground bombardment against several villages in western al-Biqa' and the south, which caused many casualties, a Hizballah official made the following statement:

The Zionist enemy and its Lahdist agents recently stepped up their attacks on civilians. While the Islamic Resistance had retaliated for these acts of aggression, it had so far restricted its bombardment to the Zionist-Lahdist positions, assembly points, and settlements inside occupied Palestine. The Islamic Resistance reiterates that its role is to liberate all the inhabitants of the occupied territories from the yoke of occupation.

The Hizballah official warned against the shelling of the liberated areas and against any attempts to displace the inhabitants of these areas. The Hizballah official noted that this will certainly be a costly adventure because we will retaliate forcibly in defense of our people's security.

Hizballah's Qasim Scoffs at Israel's 'Superiority'

NC1906063695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance has scored a new victory as part of its continuing jihad against the Zionists in the occupied part of the south. The Islamic Resistance carried out a heroic operation yesterday, constituting a military and political breakthrough. The Islamic Resistance operation on the al-Dabshah-al-Zaffat road, which left three Zionist soldiers dead and seven others wounded, reiterates the pledge the Resistance has made to defend our people against the continuous Zionist attacks. Our correspondent in the south, Samir 'Alami, reported the following:

[Begin 'Alami recording] The Islamic Resistance yesterday dealt a severe blow to the Zionist enemy and its political and military circles. The operation offers additional evidence of the mujahidin's determination and ability while the enemy has been trying to transfer the battle to inhabited areas over the past few days. The Resistance response has been fierce, hitting the Zionist settlements. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim praised the heroic operation and asked: Where is the invincible Israeli force and superiority? Praise be to God, we have the force of faith that can defeat the enemy forces.

Addressing a rally to commemorate the first anniversary of the Maydun martyrs, Shaykh Qasim said the settlement with the Zionist enemy is not something that must be achieved. If the regimes have signed, the nations will not sign; they will not recognize this usurper who will remain alien in our region suffering bitterness and fear. We will stand fast and we will triumph, God willing, Shaykh Qasim added. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri on Regional Peace Issue

NC1706174495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has stated in Brazil that Lebanon's call for a full and just peace — a position on which all Lebanese meet — will succeed in extending the sovereignty of the state and liberating every inch of Lebanese territory. He said Lebanon is daily asserting itself regionally and internationally. He said that Lebanon's success in making peace for itself will entrench regional peace because peace in Lebanon is an Arab and international need. Al-Hariri added: There will be no peace without Lebanon and without the country asserting its full sovereignty over all its national soil and liberating the south and Western al-Biqa' from Israeli occupation.

Beirut Radio Reports Pelletreau's Departure

NC1606162495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Robert Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Beirut for Washington this morning after concluding his talks with Lebanese officials.

Pelletreau's departure contradicts expectations in the media that he would remain in Beirut until tomorrow, Saturday, for unofficial meetings with several Lebanese figures.

Friday Prayers Preachers Criticize Pelletreau's Visit

NC1706073895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic GMT 0530 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, left Beirut yesterday after talks with Lebanese officials that focused on a settlement in the Middle East and on bilateral ties.

Friday prayers preachers focused in their sermons on the U.S. official's visit. They responded to this envoy who came to Beirut to urge officials to combat what he called terrorism. The preachers said that the Lebanese have become mature and are in no need of U.S. advice.

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said: We tell this U.S. official that the Lebanese have become mature and do not need advice from those who plan international terrorism and exercise hegemony on the world's peoples. We will not give in to America like slaves and will defend ourselves with all our might. We will continue to say no to Israel's legitimacy and existence and no to U.S. domination. We want this U.S. official to go back where he came from, because all the oppressed people in Lebanon reject his offers, remarks, threats, and demands. We will confront U.S. pressure with all our might.

Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, Hizballah Consultative Council member, stressed that the United States is the spearhead of global arrogance. He said that the day will come when we will return the bullets fired at our kinfolk in the south and western al-Biqa' to Pelletreau's chest. He noted that the Islamic Resistance now poses a danger to the U.S. Administration, which is responsible for the existence of the usurper Zionist entity in Palestine. He said that every time a U.S. envoy comes, the Zionist enemy launches aerial, ground, and naval acts of aggression against Lebanon.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, said that we are facing Zionist aggression against the south and western al-Biqa' on behalf of all Lebanon. He said that U.S. Envoy Pelletreau must have heard about the aggression. He said: We have received the Israeli message and it will not affect our stance, convictions, or our solidarity with Syria in confronting the Zionist enemy and carrying on the Middle Eastern negotiations. He stressed adherence to the resistance until Israel withdraws completely from the Lebanese territory. Referring to U.S. advice, he said what Lebanon needs is not advice; Lebanon suffers from an imbalance in the U.S. stance.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: All the tragedies that have befallen us in Lebanon and the Islamic world are caused by U.S. terrorism. This envoy persists in his aggression, oppression, and repression. Merely saying what he said in Beirut is unacceptable insolence and aggression. He called for denying the chance to speak and for limiting talks with him to the constant aggression against Lebanon by the Zionist enemy and the United States. He added: We must not accept these statements and stances. He noted that Pelletreau also called for assimilating the Zionist agents in the south, which shows just how insolent his statement is.

U.S. Official Cited on Hizballah's Future Roles

NC1806074095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing a high-ranking U.S. official, the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH reports that Hizballah is getting ready to give up the armed militia and armed resistance aspect before peace treaties are finalized between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel. The official said that Hizballah is also preparing to play a political role.

The same official expressed the hope that a peaceful solution would be achieved soon because the concerned parties will later be engaged in elections campaigns. As regards Lebanon, the U.S. official remarked: We strongly believe that the al-Ta'if Accord must be fully implemented, as this would ensure the withdrawal of all foreign troops and would make Lebanon an independent sovereign state, the official added. He said that this objective will serve the interests of all parties in the region.

The U.S. official, according to AL-HAYAH, added: We want to achieve two points: The withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon and the achievement of full sovereignty. We believe that a peace framework is the best way to achieve these two points, the U.S. official said.

Islamic Group Praises Iran, Denies Financial Aid

NC1806072995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Group in Lebanon has praised the support given by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Islamic movements in Lebanon and Palestine. The group expressed appreciation for the Islamic Republic's support of Islamic issues.

The Islamic Group, however, said that it has never received any financial aid from official or government quarters.

Peace 'Optimism' Result of 'Persistent' U.S. Efforts

JN1706171695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 17 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Not a single observer has any more doubts that what was achieved on the level of Syrian-Israeli understanding on the principles of security arrangements is an important but incomplete step and must be followed by other essential and serious steps. This is in order to be able to talk about a comprehensive solution.

Moreover, not a single observer doubts that a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon is the most important element of the desired solution which will lead to a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative founded on the land-for-peace principle.

Above all that, not a single observer doubts that real progress in the peace process is impossible without this withdrawal despite the waves of optimism created by international and regional political and media circles after reaching an understanding on security arrangements and after the tours made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross. Indeed, a breakthrough in achieving progress in the peace process would be possible if Israel showed true intentions toward the future of peace and accurate implementation of security arrangements during the talks scheduled to resume between military and political experts at the end of this month.

Security arrangements based on parallelism [tawazi], equality [tasawi], and equitability [takafu'] cannot last unless they are established on both sides of the 4 June 1967 borders. This is a line which, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, Syria will not relinquish. Israel's return to circumventing the positive step that was achieved and avoiding building on what was realized through persistent U.S. efforts will not be accepted. Also, it will, without a doubt, have serious consequences on the future of the peace process. Moreover, Israel will be responsible for the consequences if it wastes the available opportunity to achieve peace based on justice and comprehensiveness.

After all this time and all these efforts, it can be said that the features of real progress in the peace process are totally clear and that the elements of a solution are clearer. These features begin with a withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border. Their other objective aspects are also clear and include the principle of full peace in return for full withdrawal.

Contrary to Israel's condition of linking the extent of withdrawal to what Syria will offer on the peace level, which it tries to include in its political and media platform, peace depends on a full Israeli withdrawal and it will not see light if Israel insists on its proposals on partial withdrawals. Israel's insistence on proposing a limited withdrawal cannot give a positive impression, especially since it comes before the start of the Washington talks.

The optimistic picture, which observers painted following the announcement on the resumption of talks on clear bases, can be attributed to extensive U.S. efforts based on Washington's commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace and establishing security and stability in the region.

The current stage is no longer a stage of procrastination and prevarication. The peace track is clear and real peace is clearer in its applications and effects in terms of securing interests, dignities, and rights of all.

Avoiding 'Overoptimism' in Washington Talks Urged

JN1806112795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0802 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 18 Jun (SANA) — The newspaper TISHRIN has reiterated that it is impossible to circumvent the Syrian role in the peace process or to deal with Syria outside the framework of the principles of the international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolutions, and withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH calls for avoiding overoptimism, and for not pinning great hopes on the next Washington meeting between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff.

The paper says: This is because Israel has taught us and the world to be always cautious, especially since it does not guarantee its promises, and its politicians do not keep up their word.

In a commentary today, the paper adds: The Israeli officials' contradictory statements which conflict with peace and its requirements encourage us to cast doubts and give pessimistic impressions which are not in harmony with the current media clamor or the deceptive attempts which say that there is a positive change in the Israeli position and in the Israeli dealing with the peace process and U.S. efforts.

AL-THAWRAH notes: The military officials' meeting on 27 June is not the end of the road, for the road is still long and full of obstacles and difficulties. What has thus far been achieved cannot be called a breakthrough. It is no more than points and understandings on broad lines. However, if the Israeli intentions are sincere, we can achieve results which will turn these arrangements into facts on the ground and, consequently, reactivate the other aspects of the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria's political flexibility has never been and will never be at the expense of its constants and the principled adherence to full withdrawal and to the establishment of parallel [mutawaziyah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both sides of the 4-June 1967 lines.

Radio: Peace Process 'Breakthrough' Depends on Israel

JN1906075295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary, the newspaper AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria's response to the efforts which have been and are being made to achieve true progress in the peace process has always been based on its concern for the region's security and stability through the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper adds: Anyone who has followed the talks since the Madrid conference has undoubtedly realized Syria's great desire to see that the objectives of the peace process are achieved. This has pushed many officials in the world to say that Syria is working seriously to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and that Syria is right when it calls for a full and complete withdrawal to the 4-June 1967 lines, because it seeks to achieve durable peace.

In this regard, AL-BA'TH quotes U.S. President Bill Clinton who said that the comprehensiveness of the solution guarantees the region's security and stability, and that the security of one party should not be at the expense of the other.

The paper says: Thus, Syria has always been for full commitment to the international legitimacy resolutions, because it seeks a true, just, and comprehensive peace, and because it believes that among other things, the establishment of such peace saves time and effort.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The set of understandings which was reached has provided an opportunity which must be dealt with seriously to bridge the gaps which still exist, and which prevent the achievement of the aspired progress to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In its commentary, the newspaper TISHRIN says that many Israeli officials, including Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, have admitted that the raging war in southern Lebanon cannot be decided by military means, and noted that the issue is a political one, and therefore, needs a political solution.

TISHRIN says: Occupation breeds resistance. Throughout history, occupation forces have been confronted by resistance.

The paper believes that the shortest and safest way to avoid such incidents is to withdraw from the territories which were occupied by force, and to achieve a just peace based on the international law and the UN principles and resolutions.

The paper adds: It is known that Lebanon and Syria coordinate their stands, and that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are inseparable. The two countries have sought to achieve true progress in the peace process based on the relevant international resolutions. However, they were faced by Israel's intransigence. The peace process could have achieved a great deal had Israel responded sincerely to its requirements, conditions, and objectives, instead of placing obstacles in its way.

TISHRIN says: If the talks which will be held in Washington later this month on the military officers' level have revived hopes of a breakthrough [indifa'], then this will eventually depend on Israel. Inasmuch as Israel responds to peace conditions and resolutions, further efforts will be made to calm the situation and give diplomacy a chance to achieve the general aspirations in the region for peace, security, tranquility, and stability.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: To avoid a self-created impasse, Israel should withdraw from southern Lebanon and abide by the bases and requirements of the peace process. Israel's abidance by these bases will achieve stability and security in the entire Middle East.

Inseparability of Syrian, Lebanese Tracks Noted

JN1806091595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the desired, real peace, TISHRIN says: Receiving Irish Foreign minister Dick Spring, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's continued efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region. The paper continues: Reiterating its absolute eagerness to achieve a just, comprehensive peace, Syria proceeds from complete commitment to international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions on the need for full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. The paper says that there is no alternative to Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria has adopted peace as a strategic option, upheld the principle of giving back the territory in return for peace, and responded to all political efforts for a just, comprehensive peace. It says that Syria has thus proved its credibility and sound course. The paper adds that Syria has given the peace process a new chance to advance, thus proving that a just, comprehensive peace is a firm Syrian demand.

TISHRIN stresses that it is impossible to circumvent the Syrian role or to deal with Syria as far as the peace process is concerned outside the framework of the principles of international legitimacy, UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and Israel's withdrawal from the Golan and Southern Lebanon. The paper says that Israel is responsible for translating the agreement on concepts into reality, especially with regard to the basic principles of balance [al-tawazun], equitability [al-takafu'], and equality [al-musawah] in security arrangements. Besides, the paper says, the occupation must come to an end.

AL-BA'TH discusses the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process. It stresses the importance of this inseparability for a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region. The talk about Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and the issue of security arrangements, the paper says, must be accompanied by similar withdrawal from all of southern Lebanon and the al-Biqa' al-Gharbi area.

AL-BA'TH says: International envoys who visited the region rarely made any explicit references to the Israeli-Lebanese track in the peace process. Israel, for its part, preferred to keep silent. Moreover, it deliberately ignored any reference to this track, pursuing instead the track of open aggression against the south, the al-Biqa' al-Gharbi area, and the Lebanese coast, imagining by such behavior it can coerce Lebanon and drag it to a separate agreement, like the Oslo and Wadi al-'Arabah agreements. The paper continues: Although the U.S. and European roles have not been effective enough, U.S. and European officials always explicitly stress the need to implement Resolution 425. With the approach of the Washington military and political negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, those who kept silent in the past are now beginning to talk about the Lebanese track.

AL-BA'TH attributes that to the following reasons: First, from the outset, Syria's position on the peace process has been based on the need for coordination among all Arab parties. This position continues to stress the inseparability and link between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Second, Lebanon stressed its refusal to give up the principle of coordination and consultation and stressed its adherence to the principle of coordination and inseparability. At the same time, Lebanon displayed an exceptional ability to resist the Israeli pressures.

AL-BA'TH believes that the Washington meetings will be a touchstone for the Israeli intentions and a chance for Israel to prove the extent of its seriousness about making any steps forward to achieve the desired peace.

An article in AL-THAWRAH says that full Israeli withdrawal is the true key to the success of the peace process. It is a necessary prerequisite for all other peace steps, which Israel has for long been trying to give precedence, proceeding from narrow, selfish interests seeking to attain both occupation and peace. The paper continues: When Israel responds to the principle of full withdrawal in return for full peace and when a practical understanding is reached on the implementation of the understanding on concepts through practical steps reflecting equality, balance, and equitability on the two sides of the 4 June 1967 line, then it can be said that the peace process has moved in the right direction. Consequently, it can be said that the Rabin government has fulfilled the peace promises thanks to which it came to power.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that a genuine peace is an Israeli, as well as an Arab interest. A just, comprehensive peace is what peoples of the area and the world are looking forward to.

Afghanistan

OIC Delegation Arrives for Official Visit, Talks

IRNA Outlines Goal of Visit

*LD1406112095 Tehran IRNA in English
0907 GMT 14 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 14, IRNA — A delegation of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) headed by Ebrahim Bakr, special representative of the OIC secretary general, arrived here Tuesday [13 June] to hold talks with senior Afghan officials as well as leaders of the Afghan jihad groups. The three-member delegation is to discuss with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and a number of other Afghan officials the situation in the country, trend of peace talks between jihad groups, future talks, reconstruction of Afghanistan and the role that OIC could play in this connection. The delegation will also pay a visit to Jalalabad to hold talks with the leaders of opposition groups.

Afghanistan awaits the result of negotiations between Talebans and government representatives on the one hand and meeting of the jihad laaders in Jalalabad on the other hand.

Terming the current situation as a proper chance to establish peace in Afghanistan, the government called on international organizations to help restore peace in the country.

Current Political Issues Viewed

*LD1506135895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. Sayyaf, leader of the Islamic Union [Ettehad-e Eslami], met today with a delegation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], headed by (Ebrahim Bakr), assistant secretary general of the OIC. BAKHTAR reports that during the meeting talks were held on the current political issues of the country.

According to another report, esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud met with Mr. (Bakr) yesterday afternoon. They discussed the current issues of the country.

Delegates Meet With Rabbani

*LD1506101795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received a high- ranking delegation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] yesterday. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the esteemed president met with a high-ranking OIC delegation headed by (Ebrahim Bakr), and fruitful talks were held on issues of interest.

Delegates, Hekmatyar View Situation

*LD1506182795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of
Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 15 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Hekmatyar, amir of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan, yesterday met Ebrahim Bakr, assistant secretary general of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], in Jalalabad city. Our correspondent reports that the talks centered on the current situation in the country. The report adds that detailed discussions were held on ways to resolve Afghanistan's problem. Brother Hekmatyar praised and appreciated the peaceful efforts rendered by the OIC in resolving Afghanistan's problem.

Anonymous Envoy Alleges Support From Uzbekistan

*LD1606152795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1039 GMT 16 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 16 (Interfax) — There is a widespread opinion in Kabul that Afghan general Rashid Dostam, an Uzbek by nationality who controls the country's north inhabited with the Uzbeks, has chosen the course for separation from Afghanistan. "One should not rule out that Tashkent is conniving him in this," a top-ranking official from the Afghan Embassy to the Russian Federation declared in a Friday [16 June] interview with Interfax.

The official, who preferred to stay anonymous, mentioned as an example "the affair with counterfeit afghanis" (Afghanistan's monetary unit) which, as the diplomat asserted, were printed in Uzbekistan.

In his words, "in general, the counterfeit afghanis look like real ones but they differ slightly due to the fact that they are 1.5-2 millimeters larger and have a protective silver line on their right but not on the left side."

The Interfax interlocutor sees a political element in this. "It is quite possible that this deliberately crude falsification is not a technical mistake but kind of "separatist" money, the first financial step on the way to the separation of Afghanistan's northern regions," the diplomat said.

Earlier, on Wednesday, Uzbekistan's Foreign Ministry distributed a statement in Tashkent in which it expresses its protest due to the statement of deputy managing director of the Central Bank of Afghanistan Abdukadyr

Fitrat stating that Tashkent is allegedly printing counterfeit money, afghanis, and ships them to the territory of the neighboring country.

UN Mission Letter Addresses Russian Bombing

LD1806191195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry's Information Department reported to BAKHTAR that Afghanistan's permanent mission in the United Nations sent a letter to the UN secretary general, which was circulated as a formal document of the Security Council. The letter is about the violation of Afghan air space by Russian warplanes and a complaint about the damages caused by the aerial bombardment of Afghanistan's northern areas. In a report on Tajikistan by the UN secretary general on 12 May, the fatalities caused by the bombardment were mentioned. The report adds: The Security Council's 15 June resolution speaks about the necessity of immediately stopping hostile activities along Afghan-Tajik border and urges all states and related parties to play a positive role in preventing any act or measure that leads to further complication of the peace process in Tajikistan or to its delay.

Fighting Reportedly Spills Over Into Pakistan

LD1706094295 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 17, IRNA — The fighting between rival Afghan groups spilled into Pakistan territory as religious student militia and forces of an ally of President Borhanoddin Rabbani fought battles on Pakistan-Afghanistan border, press reports said here Saturday [17 June].

The fighting is reported to have raged on between Taleban and forces loyal to governor of Afghan western province of Herat General Ismail Khan in Dalbadin district of Balouchistan.

The clashes erupted following Taleban attacked on Chotu, an army camp of Ismail forces at Pak-Afghan border. [sentence as received]

The reports said that Taleban mounted attack at the time when about 300 troops were being trained for assault on Hilmand Province controlled by student militia.

The Taleban attack left 70 of Ismail's soldiers dead but their counter-offensive later pushed Taleban inside pakistan where they reported took positions.

Chotu is said to be now manned by Taleban.

Radio Reports Dostam 'Sneak Attack' in Kabul

LD1606171295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A warplane of the Dostam militia has carried out a sneak attack on residential areas of Kabul city. A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that the warplane carried out this hostile act at 0120 last night. Four people were martyred and three others injured. A dwelling has also been destroyed. A couple married only three days ago are among the martyred.

The attack took place while the Islamic army forces are inflicting fatal and crushing blows on the Dostam militia in various parts of the north of the country. Similarly a large number of people previously associated with the militia have recently joined the Islamic State of Afghanistan, to defend their Muslim and faithful compatriots. It is said that Dostam has again showed his public hostility to the people of Kabul. He wants to make up for his defeat by killing the people. [passage omitted]

Kabul Radio Reports on 'Eliminated' Dostam Unit

LD1706175195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Dostam 510th Division in Jowzjan Province has been completely eliminated; hundreds of the militia, including a number of generals, have either been killed or taken prisoner. A source of the armed forces told BAKHTAR that as a result of the lightening operations by the Islamic army forces, the 100 mojahedin militia, including Lieutenant General Abdol Qahar, Commander of the 510th Division in Sar-e Pol; Lt. Gen. Mohammad Razaq Wardag, deputy commander of the division; Major General Panji Pahlawan, commander of the 25th Brigade in Karez village; and Brigadier General Khayr Mohammad, chief of staff of the 25th Brigade, have been killed. The dead includes Lt. Gen. Abdol Qahar, who is a son of Ghafar Pahlawan, a deputy of Dostam.

The mojahedin have taken 600 militia prisoner, including five generals identified as Lt. Gen. Mohammad Ayub, commander of a brigade in Sangcharak; Maj. Gen. Shojauddin, commander of Baghawa area in Sar-e Pol; Brig. Gen. Mardan, commander of the 630th Brigade; Brig. Gen. Abdol Manan, commander of [word indistinct]; Brig. Gen. Mahtaboddin; and Lieutenant Colonel Golagha.

These successful operations have put military pressure on Jowzjan, Dostam's headquarter. The mojahedin have succeeded in capturing the areas of [word indistinct], Dehmirdeh, Dara-e Zamchi, and Zanjan and some other small and large villages in Sangcharak district.

With the elimination of the 510th Division, the mojahedin have captured 10 pieces of 82-mm artillery, 75 desert guns, 50 RPG rocket launchers, 60 PK machine guns, five medium-caliber mortars, two [word indistinct], 600 Kalashnikov rifles, two large communication sets and 15 walkie-talkies. The mojahedin have also captured two horses.

According to another report from this province, after the elimination of the 510th Division 600 militia headed by Khayr Mohammad surrendered in the villages [words indistinct] Dara-e Zamchi, Dara-e Bala, and Zanjan to the mojahedin of the 26th Division in Jowzjan. The advance of the Islamic army forces continues toward the center of Sangcharak district.

A report from Baghlan province says: This morning the Islamic army forces captured six mountainous Dostam security posts in the surrounding of Khenjan district during limited operations. The report adds: During a series of clearing up operations in Bamian Province, the mojahedin have cleared up a number of areas around the capital of Bamian Province and have captured seven enemy security posts. During the operation a number of the militia were killed and a quantity of their arms and ammunition has been captured by the army forces.

Similarly, two attacks by the Dostam militia in the province of Samangan were repulsed. And as a result of the counterattack by the mojahedin, two villages have been cleared of the militia in Roi-Doab district.

HCC Forces Take Supervisory Council Positions

LD1706180595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During their clearing up operations, the High Coordination Council [HCC] force captured five important positions of the Supervisory Council's armed men in [word indistinct] in Samangan Province. A responsible HCC source reported to our correspondent that during the operation, which lasted for 24 hours, General Qayum, a commander of the Supervisory Council, and five of his men were killed, and another commander by the name of Sabur has been injured.

The report adds: The HCC forces captured one mortar with 50 shells, one recoilless gun, one BM1, two ZK1 machine guns, three rocket launchers, 150 missiles, 100 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition and 60 rockets. The advance of the HCC forces continues in the direction of the above area.

The report also says that the warplanes of the Kabul administration have bombed the area of Roi, where the defenseless people have sufferred heavy loss of life and material. The report adds that fighting continues in the areas of (?Golgumbad) and Chambrak, where the HCC forces have achieve many successes.

HCC Planes Reportedly Bomb Presidential Palace

LD1706183795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called presidential palace and the Defense Ministry building of the Kabul administration were bombarded by High Coordination Council [HCC] warplanes yesterday. A responsible HCC source said that one bomb was dropped on the so-called presidential palace, a second one was dropped on the Ministry of Defense, and a third landed nearby. The report adds that no information has been received about casualties and damages caused by the bombardment.

Government Planes Bomb HCC Forces

LD1706185295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some residential areas in Khenjan sub- district, Baghlan Province, were bombed yesterday by the warplanes of the Kabul administration. A responsible source of the High Coordination Council [HCC] forces reported to a correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom that the HCC forces have suffered no casualties as a result, but a number of dwellings of the defenseless people have been damaged. The source told our correspondent that the Supervisory Council resorted to the savage bombardment of civilians after the victories achieved by the HCC forces in the northern provinces of our country [words indistinct].

Government Forces Capture 'Dozens' of Positions

LD1806184395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dozens of strategic positions have been captured by the Islamic army forces in Bamian after the defeat of the militia. Islamic army sources reported to BAKHTAR that, in the course of a successful operation that started yesterday morning in the province of Bamian, dozens of positions and areas were captured by the Mojahedin and the Islamic army forces. The Mojahedin and Islamic army forces have captured the strategic positions in Bacha-e Eraq mountain, Tabakhsari, Qashqa, Shashpol, and Zahak, and important positions in the (?Topchi) area, and the bases of Mostazafin, Almas, and Sadeqi. The communication lines of the militia have also been cut off with other areas. Two pieces of 82 mm artillery, two medium-caliber mortar, one BM40 [rocket launcher], five DSHK [machine guns], two ZK1 [machine guns], two PK [guns], 20 Kalashnikovs, an ammunition depot, and a jeep have also been captured by the Mojahedin. Tens of militia have either been killed or injured. As many as 17 were taken prisoner by the Islamic army.

According to another report, the villages of (?Ghlawarzo, Qadrito), Koshkak, and Khamida in Kohestan district, Jowzjan Province, were cleared of the Dostam militia in an operation today. In the course of this operation seven militia were killed and 15 others taken prisoner. The Mojahedin captured two ZK1, one DSHK, and 15 Kalashnikovs.

According to a report from Jowzjan Province, Major General Fazl, commander of the 2nd Battalion of the Tank Brigade of the 215th Division, who had escaped, was captured along with his four guards this morning. Dostam's 510th Division was completely eliminated two days ago in Sangcharak district.

India

Daily Views U.S. 'Misplaced' MFN 'Threat'

BK1406120595 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 95 p 11

[Editorial: "U.S. Waves the Stick"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American impatience with the unwillingness of large developing countries to open their markets for the penetration by US banking and insurance companies is unlikely to promote world trade. Permitting US companies unfettered rights to do business in countries like India, Indonesia and Brazil will certainly create new jobs in the US. There can be no objection to benefits to America purse. What, however, must weigh with the developing countries is the fact that American job-seekers are not their charge. Trade and economic collaboration will be worthwhile only when it is mutually beneficial. Equally important is that the two sides agree that a deal benefits both. The US seems to be insisting on a playing ground only for those games in which it is by far the stronger player. The ability and resources of American banks, insurance companies and financial consultancy firms are unmatched by countries with big emerging markets. While the US presses for free operation by its insurance companies, it is opposed to the Indian suggestion to tie up such arrangements with access for Indian skilled manpower which would prove a strong competitor in the American market. The US threat of withdrawing the most favoured nation treatment [MFN] (a euphemism for normal trade relations) if the negotiations due later this month in Geneva at the World Trade Organisation fail, seems quite misplaced. Whatever share foreign insurance companies have of the American market belongs very largely to firms from other developed nations. There is thus little justification for the US to wave the stick at the poor nations.

One can see why the US is tough about the huge emerging markets. The green pastures of the future are here, and their governments are perceived as weak and susceptible to pressure. There is a fierce competition among the US, European Union and Japan to grab as much of these markets as possible. But foreign investors or their governments should change their attitude to make for willing partnership. Dubious deals in the name of fast track clearance, such as what has created the controversy over the Enron power project, is not in the long-term interest of either India or the US, or for that matter any other country. The message that foreign investors and traders must receive is that India's big emerging market is for partnership, and not for exploitation. If a concession is expected from India, it must be matched by a similar favour from the one who seeks it. It is unfortunate that even after the formation of the World Trade Organisation, the US continues to show an inclination to bypass the body, and settle trade grievances by flexing its muscles. Trade through muscles is not the best definition for free global trade.

Minister Views Nuclear Stance, French Testing

BK1606161495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has reiterated that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has failed to prevent nuclear proliferation and it has created two classes of nations — the nuclear haves and have-nots. He was answering a reporter's query at Mysore on France deciding to resume nuclear testing. Earlier, he addressed administrators from Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, and Lakshdweep on poverty alleviation in the context of the new economic policy. A report from our Bangalore correspondent:

[Begin correspondent Gayatri Chandrashekhar recording] Addressing new bureaucrats at strategic implementation levels, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that the Eighth Plan growth rate is expected to be 5.6 percent. Market forces and the trickle down effect cannot take care of all sections of people. The state will continue effective intervention for the poor, particularly through special employment programs. Full employment would necessitate creation of 10 million new jobs every year. Food and fertilizer subsidies will continue. Their quantum will be determined. Regular enhancement of procurement prices is unavoidable. Mr. Mukherjee stated that the expansion of trade and exports has created jobs, particularly in the textile sector. The consumer boom has contributed to some extent to the overall growth. The training program has been sponsored by the Department of Personnel. [end recording]

Editorial Views Rao's Nuclear Policy Remarks

BK1706092295 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Jun 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Rao on the bomb"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nuclear hawks in India may find it tempting to read too much into Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's interview to a French newspaper in which he has admitted to India's capability to build a nuclear weapon at short notice. Mr Rao's interview to Le Figaro says nothing more or nothing less than what he has said earlier in Parliament and outside. Indeed, the irony of Mr Rao's statement is that an identical statement was made by Rajiv Gandhi on the eve of his visit to Paris when he was Prime Minister. That was six years ago. In the interregnum, India has followed a consistent policy of not weaponising its nuclear capability and, at the same time, refusing to sign the NPT on the grounds that it is discriminatory. Simultaneously, India has campaigned in all possible international forums for a complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Although, Mr Rao's statement does not signify any departure from India's stated position on non- proliferation, its importance cannot be underestimated if only because it is addressed to a French audience.

Of all the major countries with which India initiated a security dialogue since Mr Rao came to power, the French government has shown a better understanding of India's security compulsions than either Britain or America. This may have much to do with the fact that like India, France is threatened by Islamic fundamentalist influence from the outside—a danger that may be heightened if Algeria falls victim to the Islamic surge in the Maghreb. Significantly, Mr Rao has been less harsh on the NPT in his interview even while asserting India's right not to sign the treaty. This is because with the indefinite extension, the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] has become "customary law" in international diplomacy even though India, Pakistan and Israel have decided to stay out of it. The situation is similar to the UN Conference on the Law of the Seas which the US, Britain and Russia had refused to sign until last year. It would be unfair to India's stand on nonproliferation under these circumstances to equate the three non-signatories to the five nuclear weapon states and interpret Mr Rao's latest statement as a sign of a new assertiveness on the issue.

Commentary Hails Rao's 'Fruitful' Visit to France

BK1606064795 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Jun 95

[Commentary by K.C. Joglekar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to Paris has been fruitful, both in resolving the differences over some projects of joint collaboration as also in clearing doubts about India's economic policies. It will be welcome news that work is likely to be resumed soon on the 780 megawatt Dulhasti power project in Jammu and Kashmir. Work on the project had begun in 1989, but the French had abandoned it three years ago. The fact that the French are now ready once again to resume work shows their confidence that conditions in Jammu and Kashmir are slowly returning to normal.

Although Kashmir was an inevitable item on the agenda, India could find comfort on French Prime Minister Mr. Juppe's praise for its policy of transparency and accessibility. The French premier noted that the ambassadors of the European troika in India had recently visited the valley and hoped the Kashmir issue would soon be settled through dialogue.

Other plus points emerging from the prime minister's visit are an outline of an investment guarantee agreement and convening a forum to boost trade and investment between the two countries. A high- level French team is to visit India soon to prepare the ground for activating the joint commission of the two countries. Though separated by thousands of kilometers, India and France share similar ideals. The slogan of liberty, equality, and fraternity given at the time of the French Revolution inspired people fighting for freedom from colonial rule in countries like India. The French savant Emile Zola was a personal friend of Mahatma Gandhi. After it became free, Indian pursued the policy of nonalignment, keeping itself away from the rivalry between the world's then two superpowers. Though France is a member of the Western military alliances, India made it clear that it had an independent view on world affairs.

The prime minister's visit, apart from resolving differences on problems of immediate importance, helped to strengthen the ideological ties and to remove misgivings about India's economic policies. Since he came to power in 1991, Mr. Narasimha Rao has liberalized the economy. Procedures have been made simpler. The tax structure has been rationalized and obstacles in foreign investment and growth have been removed, but two factors have raised doubts about the future of the process of liberalization. The elections to the Lok Sabha — the lower house of Parliament — are less than a year away. The question being asked is whether the government coming to power after the elections will continue the process. The new government in Maharashtra wants to review the agreement for the gigantic power project at Dabhol in Maharashtra on the west coast of India being set up with foreign collaboration. This has aroused fears.

Allaying these misgivings, Mr. Rao pointed out that there was a general consensus in India around a new policy of liberalization. The main opposition party in the Lok Sabha — the Bharatiya Janata Party — had been for long an advocate of the policy of liberalization. Even the Marxist government of West Bengal has (?shed) all its inhibitions and was keen to invite foreign investment so as to bring about a quick recovery of the economy. The prime minister observed that even if another party came to power, the process of economic reforms would not be put in jeopardy. As for the Enron power project, while he felt the new government in Maharashtra state was entitled to review the agreement with the foreign collaborator, he was confident that ultimately the project would become operational. He put things succinctly when he told a French newspaper in an interview, and I quote: See India emerging as a modern and prosperous country. The genius of our people paralyzed for so long by poverty and colonialism has already begun to express itself. I see a collective explosion of energy that will rapidly enable India to play an essential role in the global prosperity and peace. Unquote.

The French president, Mr. Chirac, and Mr. Rao discussed the dangers posed by fundamentalism all over the world. During the talks, the prime minister also referred to the need of making the United Nations more broad based.

Minister Announces Fencing Along Pakistan Border

BK1706115095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has said that fencing at the border with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir will soon start to check infiltration into the state. Talking to newsmen in Indore today, Mr. Pilot said over two-thirds of fencing work at the border in Rajasthan has been completed.

Pakistani Troops Reportedly Fire Rockets in Kashmir

BK1806093395 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistani troops again fired three rockets last night on the Punch city. Two of these rockets fell near the Sher-i-Kashmir Bridge and the third one near the All India Radio Station at Punch. No damage was caused by the rocket attacks, which were made at around 0245 AM. Fifteen rockets were fired by Pakistani troops over the last one week in the Punch Sector and four civilians have been injured in these attacks.

BBC Apologizes for 'Misleading' Kashmir Coverage

BK1706152395 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 95 p 22

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, June 9 (PTI) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) today apologised for its misleading coverage on Kashmir on May 12, when the Charar Sharif shrine was burnt down, by mixing up footage of the conflict in Chechnya with incidents in the Valley.

The BBC world television news carried the apology in its bulletins today saying on May 12 it "mistakenly" broadcast in its news bulletin pictures of military action in Chechnya as part of a report on the burning of the Charar Sharif shrine in Kashmir, a BBC representative said.

According to BBC, the mistake was the result of a 'confusion' over pictures supplied to London for two different stories, the representative said.

The BBC said in its bulletins that it "apologises for any distress this (mix-up) might have caused among its viewers".

However, BBC has not officially conveyed its apology to the Indian Government saying no official complaint was made to Bush House, the headquarters of BBC in London.

The official spokesman said while no official complaint had been lodged with BBC for the May 12 mix-up, attention of the local BBC representatives had been drawn to misleading BBC reports on May 11 saying Indian troops had stormed the Charar Sharif shrine.

The Home Secretary had been issued a statement on the issue which had been carried by BBC in its bulletins, the spokesman said.

The BBC apology was issued in the name of Mr Johan Ramsland editor of BBC news.

The BBC television news service also announced that as a matter of urgency it was introducing measures to reinforce its checking procedures to ensure such mistakes did not recur.

This is the second time that BBC has faulted on its coverage of Kashmir, official sources said.

During the militants siege of the Hazratbal mosque in Kashmir in 1993, BBC had reported at that time that Indian troops had stormed the mosque.

At that time, the official spokesman had rung up Bush House in London and lodged a formal complaint. But this time instead the Government summoned the BBC team to take the Home Secretary's statement for broadcast over the BBC television news, the sources added.

BBC correspondent in New Delhi Andrew Whitehead denied that any official complaint had been lodged to him and said that he had met principal information officer S. Narendra last month and had been told of the Indian Government's misgivings regarding BBC's coverage of Kashmir, especially in the wake of the Charar Sharif incident.

The visuals that were used by BBC in its May 12 bulletin when the Sufi saint Nuruddin Noorani's shrine was gutted showed a different terrain, different soldiers using armoured vehicles which are never used in Kashmir, sources said.

Minister: Kashmir Special Status Will Not Change

BK1806103295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister has expressed the view that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian union would not be changed unless the people of the state wanted. In an interview to PTI, Mr. S.B. Chavan rejected the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] criticism that giving more autonomy to the people of Kashmir will have an adverse affect on the unity of the country. Mr. Chavan said that elections in the valley will certainly change the scenario for the better. He said it is for the chief election commissioner to decide whether conditions are right for holding polls. The home minister said that the government has taken steps to prevent recurrence of Charar Sharif type of incident by providing security to all major shrines in the state.

*1994-95 Exports Reach Record Level

95AS0417A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 May 95 p 1

[Article by Priya Ranjan Dash: "Exports Touch Record $26 Billion"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 1. India's exports shot up to an unexpected level of $26.2 billion in 1994-95, aided by a phenomenal spurt of over 25 per cent in March, the very last month of the year.

Exports in March alone amounted to $3 billion, a record of sorts for a single month. This has come as a pleasant surprise to the commerce ministry which had projected exports to be about 25.5 billion in 1994-95.

Exports were valued at $23.248 billion till February. Based on this the ministry expected 1994-95 to end with an export performance of around $25.5 billion or a growth of little over 17 per cent over 1993-94. It now turns out that exports actually grew by over 18 per cent.

Emboldened by the $700 million bonanza in export performance, the ministry is now setting its eye on a still higher level of achievement during the current year. Minister of state for commerce P. Chidambaram is likely to announce an ambitious export growth target for 1995-96 at a news conference here tomorrow.

The ministry is yet to figure out what exactly caused the boom. But some preliminary explanations are available. Large part of the credit is being given to the "45-day action programme" Mr Chidambaram effected within days of taking charge of the ministry. The programme envisaged an all out effort on the part of exporters, promotion agencies and port officials to ensure expeditious shipment of export cargo within the last 45 days of the financial year.

A factor that contributed significantly to the export boom in March was the smooth flow of export cargo held up in various ports in February for customs clearance. There was a delay in clearance of several shipments of exports under the duty-exemption scheme since the customs insisted on exporters obtaining a certificate from excise authorities that they had not availed of the Modvat benefit. The problem was sorted out in March, leading to clearance of the backlog.

March also witnessed large quantities of rice and wheat exports. Indian non-basmati rice suddenly became price competitive in the international market due to the drought in Indonesia and the poor crop in South China and Australia. Till February, grain export shipments faced considerable delay at the Kandla port. In March, the situation eased to a large extent.

*Panel Approves Foreign Investment Proposals

95AS0418A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 May 95 p 7

[Unattributed article: "Panel Okays '49 Foreign Investment Proposals. Amritraj Entertainment Inc., Motorola Gets the Nod"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, May 1. The empowered committee on foreign investment today allowed the U.S. telecommunications giant Motorola to set up three joint ventures in India to provide radio trunking services. Headed by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, the committee also approved 46 other investment proposals including one by Amritraj Entertainment Inc. of the U.S. to establish an Indian company for the production and distribution of films and television programmes.

The 49 proposals approved today envisage a total direct foreign investment of nearly Rs 450 crore.

Motorola will hold up to 49 per cent stake in the three joint ventures, which are bidding to secure territories in major Indian cities where radio trunking networks will be offered. Radio trunking is a two-way communication system among closed users. The network is independent and an interface with the ordinary telecommunication network is not permitted. The use of radio trunking is common in police, fire and the defence services.

Amritraj Entertainment, which is an NRI [expansion not given] overseas corporate body, will hold 50 per cent of the equity of the Indian company to be capitalised at Rs 5 crore. The balance of 50 per cent will be held by Solomon Enterprises of the U.S.

In the entertainment industry, the committee also approved the proposal of TV 18 India Limited to induct Rs 60 lakh as foreign equity amounting to 24 per cent. TV 18 is engaged in producing TV serials and shows. The foreign equity induction will help it expand the programme production base.

A proposal by Nokia Telecommunications of Finland to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary received the government's approval. Nokia will initially bring in $3 million as equity, which will be increased to $10 million over 10 years.

The proposal made by Kumar's Marine Engineering Corporation to set up a joint venture for harbour development on a build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) basis was also cleared without any commitment regarding the award of projects.

The promoters of the joint venture propose to develop four berts in the northern area of the Vishakhapatnam harbour. They have a similar proposal for the development of Gangavarum harbour in Andhra Pradesh. The joint venture envisages foreign equity from Malaysia of Rs 39.55 crore (14 per cent) and NRI equity of Rs 45.20 crore (16 per cent). The foreign collaborator has experience in port development in Malaysia.

The committee approved the proposal of East India Hotels Ltd. to set up a joint venture for the construction, contract and project management services in the hotel industry. The joint venture proposes to build and operate five-star deluxe and five-star hotels using the Oberoi name, four five-star hotels using the Trident brandname and three-star hotels using the name of Novotel. Locations include Agra, Cochin, Jaipur, Udaipur, Madras, Mysore and New Delhi.

The committee cleared the proposal of Kolmak Petrochem Ltd. to set up a 80,000-tonne per annum suspension grade PVC [Pram Vir Chakra] resin manufacturing plant at Haldia in West Bengal with a foreign equity of Rs 6.6 crore. The financial and technical collaboration from renowned Italian and American companies will provide the first plant of its kind in eastern India and help meet the demand-supply gap. The company will also export 20 per cent of its annual production starting from 1997 for five years.

Among the other projects approved are two 100 per cent export-oriented units in floriculture and a unit in Tamil Nadu for the manufacture of dried and powdered marigold flowers for use in the animal feed industry. Marigold flowers which are presently imported from the U.S. will be cultivated in India with a confirmed buy-back arrangement with the collaborator Kemin Industries of the U.S. The export revenue is projected at Rs 74.35 crore over five years.

*State Congress Leader Reddy Says NTR Corrupt

95AS0415B Secunderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 7 May 95 p 13

[Unattributed article: "CM, the Most Corrupt Man in State: PJR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyderabad, May 6: The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader, Mr P. Janardhan Reddy, on Saturday called the Chief Minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, a mafia leader and said he was the most corrupt man in the State.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Mr Janardhan Reddy said the Chief Minister was encouraging corruption in high places and protecting party legislators and ministers involved in the illegal liquor trade.

The CLP leader said influential persons, unmindful of the prestige and dignity of the offices they held, were merrily carrying out trade in the harmful beverage.

Instead of initiating action against the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr C.N. Rao, who, the Congress leader alleged, had extorted Rs 3 crore from employees of the department, the Chief Minister was encouraging him.

He also complained that no action had been taken against the Minister for Roads and Buildings, Mr Ch Ayyanna Pathrudu, against whom a criminal case had been booked for assaulting an official on election duty during the mandal elections.

He also reiterated the demand for action against the Labour Minister, Mr Paritala Ravi, for allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a District Cooperative Official (DCO) in Anantapur.

The CLP leader said liquor bottles were being supplied at a lodge owned by the Municipal Chairman of Chittoor and a truck load of IMFL [expansion not given] had been transported to Chandragiri in Chittoor district — represented by Mr N. Ramamurthy Naidu, brother of the Finance Minister, Mr Chandrababu Naidu.

He said Telugu Desam (TD) legislators and ministers in the liquor trade were involved in it with the full knowledge of the Chief Minister. The spirit behind prohibition was disappearing fast, he regretted.

Mr Janardhan Reddy said the law and order situation in the State had gone totally out of control, especially after the mandal and municipal elections. Mr Reddy held the Chief Minister squarely responsible for this deterioration.

Referring to the conduct of Assembly proceedings, Mr Reddy said they went on smoothly only because the Opposition, especially the Congress, had cooperated.

Though Congress members had wanted to discuss pressing problems like the severe drought situation, power shortage and pending projects, they had been denied an opportunity to do so.

Observing that the Chief Minister was making vague and obscure statements, the CLP Deputy Leader, Mr Gade Venkata Reddy, said his claim that his government had doubled the funds allotted to government hospitals was not true.

He released copies of the GOs [expansion not given] issued on October 28, 1994, when the Congress was in power, providing for a hike in funds to hospitals.

Article Blames Rao for Congress Dissident Movement

95AS0398B New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 9 May 95 p 4

[Article by Ravindra Tripathi: "Congressism in Place of Non-Congressism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is there any relationship between Non-Congressism and the continuing struggle of dissident Congress members under the leadership of Narayan Dutt Tiwari and Arjun Singh against Narshima Rao? This question at first glance seems unreasonable. What analogy, if any, can be made between the non-Congress [movements] of the seventies, eighties, and the nineties to unseat the Congress from the central and state governments, and the [current] dissident effort to unseat Narshima Rao from the prime ministership and the Congress presidency? The objectives of the two are totally different. What affinity can exist between the two?

There is an affinity. Namely, the replacement of the invisible Non—Congressism of this decade by dissident agitation under the Tiwari-Arjun leadership. It may seem strange but in fact it is not. The politics of Non-Congressism waned after the fall of the Vishwanath Pratap Singh's government and this significantly affected the strength of the parties opposing the Congress. For example the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] got strengthened. The Janta Dal broke into factions. During this period several cases of corruption surfaced but non-Congress politicians could not do anything significant, instead they merely raised the issue in parliament. The reason, of course, was the differences between the non-Congress parties which Narasimha Rao exploited. As a result, during the last Vidhan-Sabha [state assembly] elections the Congress suffered heavily but the opposition did not gain. The Congress indeed had a setback in the elections but any grassroots movement against it did not emerge. The vacuum created by this absence of Non-Congress politics provided a stage for Narayan Dutt Tiwari and Arjun Singh to challenge Narasimha Rao [from within Congress] and they attained a different and a higher plateau then the average dissident Congress member. How far this challenge may succeed is anyone's guess at this time.

It is noteworthy that the angered members are not engaged in a movement of non-congressism. In contrast their movement is based on congressism. They say that Narasimha Rao has deserted the policies of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and that he should quit the prime ministership and the Congress presidency. If he does not do so the Congress membership should unseat him. This popular dissent is harbored against Narasimha

Rao's leadership and the dissidents consider themselves the true keepers of Congress' tradition. Certainly most of these people were either defeated in the last elections or if they were elected, they had to leave because of one reason or the other. But this is true regarding only the leaders. In reality the common party worker is disgusted with his own party, and does not have the zest to even chant slogans for the long life of their party president and the prime minister of the country. This is why he is ready to accept and have faith in those who were defeated in the last elections or who have now renounced the party.

Narasimha Rao himself is responsible for this condition. He cleverly restrained and manipulated the non-congress state governments so that they could not oppose him politically. Even so, today the situation in Tamil Nadu has reversed itself and Jayalalitha has emerged into the opposition, called Rao a "passive prime minister." In political circles it has long been discussed as to why Rao restrained the Congress Party from initiating a movement against the opposition governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and the BJP governments. In regard to Uttar Pradesh it is said that he openly helped Mulayam Singh, both politically and financially, during the elections. His love for Mulayam encouraged him to disregard a distinguished Congress leader like Narayan Dutt Tiwari.

But there is no need to be surprised. Indeed Narasimha Rao did not let the Congress opposition flourish under non-Congress state governments. This was especially true in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. During the seventies and eighties these states were the founding pillars of non—Congress politics. For the Congress government to stay in power in the Lok Sabha in 1991, it was essential that northern India should be devoid of any anti-Congress wave. It may be fresh in Mr. Rao's memory how in 1987 Devi Lal, the chief minister of a small state of Haryana, manipulated and intimidated the majority government of Rajiv Gandhi. It should be explicit to Rao, who has witnessed several ups and downs in Congress politics, that Mulayam Singh Yadav or Lalu Prasad Yadav may slip into Devi Lal's role. His (Rao) objective was clear. He had to run the government - even at the cost of destroying the party organization. To date he has been successful.

We are opposing Mr. Rao, say Arjun Singh and Kumarmangalam along with other dissident Congress members because he has deviated from Congress policies. As a matter of fact, Rajiv Gandhi the grandson of Jawaharlal Nehru, had himself deviated from the policies put in place by his grandfather, and Rao is simply following Rajiv Gandhi's policies. In fact, Mr. Rao in breaking away from Rajiv Gandhi's policies did cause a crack in the relationship between the party and the administration. There was a danger of collapse to his government in reviving the party organization.It was therefore decided to maintain good relationships with the non-Congress state governments and to help them even at the cost of the party. Mulayam Singh Yadav and Lalu Prasad Yadav, could have caused problems for Prime Minister Rao. It was therefore, beneficial for Rao to not only let them continue to be chief ministers but to render the [Congress] state party organization so inactive that both the chief ministers felt safe. This did not happen in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alone but in all those states which had and have non-Congress governments.

This resulted in the situation clearly visible today. In all these states an average party member showed no enthusiasm and at the time of elections he had no zeal to work in election campaigns and was totally demoralized. Today an average Congress member is stagnant and his heart has stopped beating for the party. He does not even visualize getting the routine mundane benefits due a local leader because, one, he is out of the power loop and, two, even when in the opposition he has been deprived of his role to protest. He has no recognition anywhere either at the district or village level. The state Congress leadership is also not in a position to say anything against the non—Congress chief ministers because the party president has asked them to be quiet. To raise a no-confidence motion against the opposition governments in legislative assemblies these leaders look for the Party High Command's permission and keep on waiting for this permission which is never accorded.

Leaders like Mamata Bannerjee [West Bengal] and Rammurti [Tamil Nadu] who tried to initiate movements against their respective (non—Congress) state governments were not only discouraged but punished. Behold Rammurti was unseated from his position of state party president. Today in Tamil Nadu volunteers are burning Rao's effigy but the State Congress Party President Kumri Anandan is indecisive in his response. Minister Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, an ardent follower of Narasimha Rao is glorifying Rajasthan Chief Minister [BJP's] Bharon Singh Sekhawat and the local Congress leaders are protesting it by simply writing to the prime minister.

The current trend of despair and frustration could not have lasted for ever. Sometime within the Congress an explosion had to happen to challenge Mr. Rao's political victory earned at the cost of party organization. This explosion happened when Narayan Dutt Tiwari, soon after becoming the state party president demanded the dismissal of the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. This demand was not really against Mulayam Singh but was aimed at the political alliance between Rao and Mulayam Singh. Passage of this resolution by the Uttar Pradesh Congress membership reassured them. Narasimha Rao, by supporting Mulayam Singh again resisted the growth of non-Congress politics but he could not stop the development of "congressism" within the party which in fact is his personal opposition. It is being said that now Karunakaran and Pawar are also worried about the future of the Congress and Narasimha Rao considers such thoughts as directed against himself.

It is true that this Congressism is not strong like the non-Congressism of seventies, eighties, and nineties, and to date it does not have the strength to unseat Rao even from the Congress presidency, let alone the prime ministership. How much momentum it gains in future is dependent on several factors. One, that its manifesto should not only be significant for the party members but would have popular appeal. To accomplish this, it is necessary to aim not against Narasimha Rao, but to gain the popular support now manifested for the BJP and Rashtriya Morcha [National Front] parties. This will be very difficult for Narayan Dutt Tiwari and Arjun Singh. As easy as it was for Mr. Rao to render Congress membership politically passive, similarly difficult is it to associate average people in the Congress with Nehru and Indira Gandhi policies and programs. May the leaders of that Congress be Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Arjun Singh, or Sonia Gandhi.

It is also evident that this anti—Rao movement will only enhance the difficulties for Rao. The prime minister may have succeeded in saving his chair by entering into an alliance with the opposition chief ministers, but the next election will not be contested on this basis. Elections are fought and won on the basis of the popularity of the leader and the enthusiasm of the campaign workers. To begin with, (Rao) is devoid of popularity and he has already rendered the party membership passive. With the elections approaching fast even the Rao supporters are now nervous. And to top it all, now we have the movement by the dissident membership. This movement will not be against the opposition as much as it will be against Rao. The prime minister and his supporters may be daydreaming that the dissidents may follow the fate of the Samata Party and that Narayan Dutt Tiwari and Arjun Singh may become [politically marginalized] like George Fernandez and Nitish Kumar. But like Lalu Prasad Yadav, Narasimha Rao does not appear ready to accept the victory garland. The Congressism of the dissidents will harm him like non—Congressism did in the past. How fateful will this similarity be?

*Article Views Unfair Representation in Jammu

95AS0414E Madras THE HINDU in English 18 May 95 p 12

[Article by Hari Om, professor of history in the University of Jammu: "Jammu Cries for Justice"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are legitimate reasons for the people of Jammu region to feel badly let down and "betrayed" and interpret and denounce the April 27, 1995 report of the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission (JKDC) as a "deliberate affront to their self-respect." The report undoubtedly makes unjust and invidious distinctions between the people of Jammu and the Kashmiris and gives an unfairly preponderant and excessive share of representation to the latter in the Legislative Assembly. If implemented in its present form, it would surely "seal the political fate of the people of Jammu for another period of 10 years" and enable the Kashmiris once again to control fully both the Legislature and Government.

Fortunately, however, Jammu has not exploded in anger but the warning signals are there. The issue of fair representation, which has caught the imagination of all the people in Jammu irrespective of their political affiliation and religious denomination, has all the ingredients of snowballing into a major conflict. The issue has emotional overtones and needs to be tackled dispassionately, imaginatively and expeditiously.

The story of Jammu's underrepresentation in the Assembly started in 1951 when the State was kept outside the purview of the census operation of that year throughout the country. The immediate consequence of that action was the carving out the the constituencies for the Assembly based on the 1941 census. This the government did despite the fact that the complexion of the State population had undergone a sea change owing to the migration of over one lakh Muslims from Kashmir to Pakistan and an influx of over two lakh refugees from the Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), as also the migration of thousands of Hindus and Sikhs from the valley to the Jammu region.

This exercise gave 30 seats to Jammu which has a land area of 27,000 sq. km. 43 to Kashmir having an area of 15,000 sq. km. and a paltry two to the cold-desert Ladakh with an area of 97,000 sq. km in a House of 100. The remaining 25 seats were kept reserved for the people of PoK.

In 1961, however, Jammu got an opportunity to convince the authorities of its due representation in the Assembly, based on population, area, nature of terrain, accessibility and geographical conditions. Section 4(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People

Act (1957) (JKRPA) envisages the above four major criteria for the delimitation of Assembly constituencies. The opportunity was provided by the census of that year conducted in the State along with the rest of India after a gap of 20 years.

The 1961 census had put Jammu's population at 16 lakhs and that of Kashmir at 18 lakhs. But the valley leaders contrived to retain 12 seats more than those of Jammu which obviously means that just two lakh Kashmiris were given the right to elect 12 legislators at the rate of one per 16,666 persons. This was enough to exasperate Jammu which launched a massive struggle demanding that the position of the people of Jammu in the structure of the government must be commensurate with their numerical strength and other conditions laid down by the JKRPA. But nothing came out of it. The JKDC, on its part, did try to conciliate Jammu when in 1966 it reduced the valley's share by one and increased Jammu's from 30 to 31.

The 1971 census, which had put Jammu's population at 21 lakhs and that of Kashmir at 23 lakhs, did not bring any relief to the former. The JKDC yet again subverted the JKRPA and permitted Kashmir to return 42 legislators at the rate of one per 53,288 persons, while Jammu was forced to elect legislators at the rate of one per 67,741 persons. When the people of Jammu protested against this gross discrimination, Sheikh Abdullah offered one seat in the form of a crumb in 1976.

The situation did not change even after 1981 despite several protests in Jammu in favour of a parity with the Kashmiris in the matter of representation. Sheikh Abdullah did appoint a commission in 1981 with Justice Wazir Janaki Nath as its chairman to redraw the boundaries of the Assembly segments. But Justice Wazir could not complete the job assigned to him as he died in 1983. Thereafter, Mr. Justice Mian Jalal-Ud-Din was appointed chairman of the JKDC. The JKDC under Justice Jalal-Ud-Din functioned till September 1991. In between, two highly significant developments took place which provided an additional stimulus to the ongoing controversy over the number of seats the people of Kashmir and Jammu deserved in the Assembly. First, in their letter to the Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, written in 1986 the JKDC members including Mr. Justice Jalal-Ud-Din, Peri Shashtri, Chief Election Commissioner of India, and Mr. Justice K.K. Gupta, stressed the "urgent need of more representation to the people of the far-flung areas in Jammu and Ladakh." And, secondly, the amendment to the State Constitution in 1987 which raised the number of constituencies from 76 to 87. Both these developments led the people of Jammu to entertain a belief that the Justice Jalal-Ud-Din Commission would dispense justice to all. But their high hopes were unrealised.

It was under these circumstances that the people of Jammu launched a struggle to seek withdrawal of the April 4 notification and force the powers-that-be to recognise their fundamental right to representation on the basis of population and other criteria. So strong was their movement that the Government was left with no option but to ask the JKDC members to review their recommendations. The JKDC, in the words of one of its members, Mr. Justice K.K. Gupta, did acknowledge that "Jammu deserved seven of the 11 newly-created seats on the basis of population alone." But it could do nothing to meet the demand of Jammu owing to the "stiff opposition" of the non-official members of the JKDC, including the Jamait-e-Islami legislator, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the National Conference legislators, Mr. Ali Mohammad Sagar and Mr. Ata Aullah Suharawardy, and Mr. Ali Mohammad Naik, an independent legislator. The controversy between the official and non-official members culminated in the resignation of Mr. Justice Jalal-Ud-Din in 1991 and the appointment of Mr. Justice K.K. Gupta as Chairman of the JKDC. Mr. Justice Gupta, too, like Mr. Justice Jalal-Ud-Din, failed to modify the recommendations for the same reasons and submitted his report on September 28, 1992.

Small wonder then that the people of Jammu had termed the JKDC report as "highly irrational and politically motivated" and observed a massive 48-hour bandh on October 28 and 29, 1992. The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, was even more severe in his criticism of the report. In fact, he described the report as a "deceitful, fraudulent" document, a fraud on the Constitution and declared the JKDC recommendations null and void.

The bitter opposition in Jammu against the JKDC report and Mr. Seshan's stand forced the Government to ask Mr. Justice Gupta to start the delimitation process *de novo*. He started his work in August 1994 and submitted his report on April 27, 1995, but without any change whatsoever. When contacted by this writer on May 5 to ascertain his views on the oftrepeated accusation in Jammu that "his report was a photo copy of the Justice Jalal-Ud-Din report," he did not deny it. Rather, he said that "gross injustice has been done to Jammu and that he has strongly urged the Governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, to approach the President to amend the State Constitution in order to meet the genuine demand of the people of Jammu."

It is thus fairly obvious that the JKDC report is not based on the criteria prescribed by the JKRPA. It seems to have been designed to facilitate and perpetuate the domination and exploitation of the people of Jammu and is being imposed on them against their unanimous opposition. The Government must act and act fast to redress this and other grievances like inadequate representation in services, technical and professional institutions and public sector institutions. Any prevarication has the potential of provoking the Jammu people to begin a prolonged agitation. And, if it happens, the results would certainly be disastrous.

Iran

Rafsanjani Views 'Abortive' U.S. Moves

LD1606181695 Tehran IRNA in English
1805 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA — Global arrogance is incapable of confronting the might of the Islamic revolution today because Iran derives its power from a wise leadership, struggles of the 'ulema, faith of revolutionary forces and presence on the scene of the people, said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hojjat ol-eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting with the Islamic Society here last night, dwelt on Washington's abortive moves against Iran and said despite the political and propaganda tirade of global arrogance, Iran is well on the road of progress and prosperity.

Moreover, he added, the negative response of even the closest friends of the U.S. to the trade sanctions against Iran, indicates that the era of bullying and domination is over.

The president lauded the "valuable" role of the Islamic Society in the victory of the Islamic revolution 1979 and commemorated martyrs Amani, Bukharaie, Harandi and Niknejad.

In an era, when the father of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeyni took his political and social step against Pahlavi tyranny, the Islamic Society served as a strong line of support.

He expressed hope that the society would continue to serve the ideals of the Islamic revolution.

Velayati Addresses U.S. 'Failure,' Other Issues

LD1806183695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with our correspondent today, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the failure of the White House to persuade the industrialized countries to join the trade embargo on Iran was the result of the mind-set of U.S. foreign policy planners. He said: The world situation is not such that the United States could impose its political will on others.

[Begin recording] [Velayati] The outcome of the U.S. Government's foreign policy in various parts, in Somalia, Bosnia, and finally in Iran, should have gradually shown U.S. statesmen that, contrary to what they think, even if the world was considered as unipolar for a short time, the world is moving in a multipolar direction today.

As you know the United States' failure in bringing about concord among the G-7 member countries to impose trade sanctions against Iran is ample evidence of the clash between the United States' interests and those of other countries, while the United States considers itself in a superior position. Various countries have shown they are not prepared to listen to and obey the United States' orders in the world. Every country follows its own interests and policies.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the political statement of the G-7 summit, it is stated that countries that have nuclear technology cooperation with Iran should act so that Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons. What is your view on that?

[Velayati] This is, in fact, a form of retreat for a country like the United States, which would not have yielded to such a statement in the past. What they have expressed concern about, regarding Iran's obtaining nuclear weapons, Iran has already refuted. What they have confirmed is what we have sought from the start; that is, the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Officals, Press Comment on G-7 Summit

Spokesman Views Communique

LD1806181995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran has actively participated in promoting regional and international peace and stability. Iran's active participation and peace-seeking diplomacy has been demonstrated in its initiative and efforts to stop bloodshed in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, to secure national reconciliation in Tajikistan, to settle the bloody dispute among the warring factions in Afghanistan, and in its declaration of readiness to dispatch peacekeeping forces to Bosnia.

In the wake of a 29-point political communique issued by the G-7 industrialized states, Mahmud Mohammadi, a spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry, responded to an article of the communique that discusses our country's stance on international issues and demands that Iran should actively and constructively participate in international and regional issues. The spokesman said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while believing that a just peace and regional and international stability can be realized by respecting the rights of all nations, by respecting international regulations, and by avoiding coercion and double standards when resolving various crises, welcomes the attention paid by the G-7 summit to the issue of respecting the public votes and free elections in Algeria.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry, however, believes the summit's refusal to protest against the Zionist regime for ignoring international regulations by continually occupying Palestine and southern regions of Lebanon, by refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], for desecrating Muslim holy places, and for ignoring the rights of Palestinian Muslims cannot be justified.

The spokesman reiterated Iran's commitment to the NPT and added: Iran's policy on armaments is based on seeing a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction and annihilation of the existing nuclear weapons in stockpiles of the advanced nuclear states.

The spokesman added: Iran considers it unacceptable that some countries are creating obstacles against the idea of dispatching peacekeeping forces from Islamic states to Bosnia, and believes that lack of a clear policy to guarantee peace and prevent further bloodshed and destruction in that country is also unacceptable. Iran further believes there is a close link between the interests and security of all states by observing mutual and balanced respect in international relations and regulations and by respecting the rights of all nations to promote cooperation and secure their interests and global security.

Our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman went on: The outcome of the Halifax summit demonstrates that the world, in its new division, is moving toward deeper regional and international cooperation. Any conception left from the cold war period and the unipolar world era is no longer valid. The reign of dictating unilateral demands by those who dream of becoming the absolute global power is over.

Official Views Clinton 'Failure'

NC1806193295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Interview with Mohammad Husayn al-Hashimi, chief editor of KAYHAN AL'ARABI newspaper and head of the Arab department at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] It is known that Bill Clinton expected to use the Halifax summit to pressure the Europeans and Japanese into joining the United States in the economic blockade against Iran. How do you judge Clinton's efforts?

[Al-Hashimi] Like many political observers who followed up the Halifax summit proceedings, I believe Clinton has failed in his effort. In fact, he did not achieve any of his goals. As I mentioned, through this summit, he sought to at least drag, or rather convince, the Europeans to join his side in his blockade of Iran. This was not achieved. Moreover, I should say, Clinton even failed to convince the Europeans to support him even in a publicized propagandistic role, as some news agencies and reporters in Halifax said. Anyway, I must say he failed in his attempt and achieved nothing.

[Correspondent] In your view, why did Clinton fail to drag the European countries into opposition of Iran?

[Al-Hashimi] I believe the European countries can no longer accept, as was the case in the past, a U.S. domination—or how should I say it—U.S. paternalism as the general supervisor of the European position. They have not accepted this. Things have changed a great deal. The political situation in Europe has changed completely. Nations to some extent are aware of such things and governments are mainly concerned with their and their peoples' interests. Therefore, they all do not accept this hegemony, domination, and supervision. They have their own opinions.

I believe the sole, primary reason is the Europeans' rejection of U.S. domination in the first place and, second, they are not prepared to sacrifice their own interests for the sake of the United States' interest. These were their positions at the Halifax summit.

[Correspondent] What will be the political and propagandistic repercussions of Clinton's failure at the Halifax summit within the United States?

[Al-Hashimi] I believe President Clinton's failure at the Halifax summit will mainly have an impact inside the United States. I believe, before other nations, the U.S. people will have to face the fact that Bill Clinton personally, who devoted most his efforts to the Zionist lobby and toward achieving Israel's goals in and out of the United States, has not given priority to the U.S. people's interest and therefore, he even failed to adopt a positive position to the Zionist lobby. I think President Clinton's popularity in the United States will plummet. His political failure will be reflected strongly in the U.S.

and western media and eventually President Bill Clinton will lose much of his popularity inside the United States.

Radio Claims Clinton Behind 'Failure'

LD1806085495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 18 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] As you were informed in the news bulletin, the 21st meeting of the G-7 industrial states ended its work yesterday. A statement was issued at the end of the session.

During the three-day meeting, the most important economic and political issues facing the participating states were reviewed and discussed. The majority of the discussions during the first two days were devoted to economic issues. Political issues were addressed on the third day of the meeting, in which Boris Yeltsin also participated.

With a little attention paid to the content of the statements that have been issued, one can ascertain the success or failure of the meeting. Neither of the two statements issued at the end of meeting offers any solution or new initiative for the issues on hand. They only suffice to give some advice for the resolution of the current problems. It appears that the member countries did not succeed in reaching a consensus on different issues before them.

Of course such an outcome was predictable because, before the convening of the session, each of the member countries had already announced their stances on various issues in a semi-official way. For example, differences of opinion continued to be evident among the states that influence the Bosnian crisis, or, in the trade war between the United States and Japan, the two countries had adopted quite clear positions even before the convening of the session. Therefore it was quite predictable that the meeting would not achieve anything.

Therefore, it seems that the national interests of each of the participating states proved to be an obstacle in the way of their agreement on issues of dispute which appeared to be common among them.

The countries that arrived at the G-7 meeting with the greatest expectations were in fact chiefly responsible for the failure of the session.

Bill Clinton, who faces a number of strong rivals from the Republican Party in that country's elections due to be held next year, expected to turn the Halifax session toward a direction which would be seen as a success for him. His incapability of doing so, however, has added another case of failed attempt to his political file. That is why Bill Clinton, more than any other person, is responsible for the failure of the Halifax meeting.

Industry Minister Views Trade With Iraq, U.S.

MM1506142995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 95 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Industry Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Official Trade Exchanges With Iraq; U.S. Embargo Harms Washington More Than Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh has stressed that the Iranian side wants to put its foreign relations right and improve its relations with Iraq.

On Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement at the level of investments and trade exchange, Ne'matzadeh said that an exchange of commodities is taking place on the Iraqi-Iranian border. Ne'matzadeh pointed out that this kind of exchange has always existed, as inhabitants of the border areas exchange commodities. This kind of exchange is prevalent on the Pakistani-Afghan border. But these exchanges, regardless of the amounts involved, which are usually limited, do not find their way into Iranian foreign trade records. They can be described as unofficial exchanges. There are no Iranian exports to Iraq or Iranian imports from Iraq.

On the U.S. embargo's potential effects on the Iranian economy, Ne'matzadeh played these down to the extent that other states have not complied with it. He said that, with the exception of Israel, no other state has complied with this step. Ne'matzadeh pointed out that imports from the United States are limited to the purchase of certain commodities such as corn, rice, and some chemical material. And these commodities can be obtained from other world markets. From the early seventies Iran had begun to reduce its link with the U.S. economy. Iranian industries have been restructured, relying on non-U.S. technology.

Ne'matzadeh said that Iran's imports from the United States total around $360 million — which represents no more than 2-3 percent of Iran's imports.

He said that Iran can find new markets for its exports. And he pointed out that the embargo will to some extent have a negative impact, but its effects will be meager and limited. The first to be harmed by the decision are the U.S. companies that have been dealing with Iran for several years.

On economic conditions in Iran Ne'matzadeh said that the costs of the war and the embargo imposed on Iraq are enormous. According to the United Nations they are estimated at $100 billion, but the Iranians believe that they exceed this figure. Ne'matzadeh said that Iran's options are either to speed up the rebuilding process and seek loans from foreign sources or to delay the rebuilding process. The reconstruction process has begun to compensate for the years of war in order to revitalize and develop the infrastructure destroyed by the war. This is why the first five-year plan was adopted, in order to achieve positive growth rates instead of the negative rates that existed before. Ne'matzadeh praised the huge projects implemented by the government, which resulted in debts totaling some $16 billion, according to Ne'matzadeh's estimates. About $10 billion of these debts are due for payment, so they represent pressure on Iran's foreign currency reserves.

On prospects for the Iranian economy Ne'matzadeh pointed out that the second development plan was adopted nearly a year ago. The performance in the first year has been encouraging, as the real growth rate has reached about five percent. He expected the industrial sector to be the pioneer in the development process in the next four years.

On controlling spending in the general budget, Ne'matzadeh stressed that the deficit in the recent budget was nil — which means that government expenditures and revenues were almost equal. The reason is the government's adoption of an austerity policy to curb huge government expenditures.

He stressed that the government will continue to control spending until it reaches a minimum. Ne'matzadeh pointed out that the new economic philosophy is based on encouraging the private sector to implement a number of enterprises and participate in development. But the private sector does not mean the market according to the prevailing concept; it means improving, rectifying, and increasing investment efficiency within a so-called complete safety program.

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Pays Visit

Arrives, States Purpose of Visit

LD1606103295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Najibollah Lafra'i, the Afghan foreign minister, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation. He was welcomed by Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister.

On his arrival, in an interview with our correspondent, Mr. Lafra'i said the purpose of his visit to Iran is to discuss the Afghan crisis. He stated: The problems facing Afghanistan at present should be primarily solved through the efforts of the warring sides. However, the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran — which has supported our Muslim nation over the past few years and seeks the establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan — is important to us.

At the same interview, stressing that the Afghan problem should be solved through talks, our country's foreign minister said: Instead of fighting, the warring sides in Afghanistan should seek a comprehensive solution. The continuation of war and bloodshed will bring nothing but harm and destruction to the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

He said Afghan President Rabbani's recent effort to bring about peace and calm in that country was encouraging. He added: The continuation of bilateral talks between Iran and Afghanistan will help establish peace and stability in Afghanistan and will be beneficial to both nations.

Views Afghan Situation With Velayati

LD1706104395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The various dimensions of bilateral cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan as well as the latest Afghan political and military developments were discussed during talks this morning between our country's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Afghan Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i.

At the meeting Mr. Lafra'i thanked Iran for its humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan, especially the three-phased polio vaccination in that country.

Elaborating on the political and military developments in Afghanistan, he explained that efforts are being made to establish peace and tranquillity throughout that country. He criticized the UN role in Afghanistan and said: If the United Nations does not act according to realities in Afghanistan, it will fail.

Mr. Velayati said: We believe there is no other way to settle the Afghan issue but by holding talks with all groups. Any settlement must take form inside Afghanistan. He added: As Afghanistan's neighbor, we are ready to offer assistance for the establishment of peace and security in that country. The current situation there is a source of concern for us as well.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Afghan foreign minister, who is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking delegation comprising deputy ministers from various ministries, will be discussing various aspects of cooperation between the two countries with relevant officials in Iran.

Discusses Aid With Rafsanjani

LD1706180095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, received Mr. Najibollah Lafra'i, Afghan minister of state for foreign affairs, today.

According to the Central News Unit, the president expressed regret over the continuation of clashes in Afghanistan, which have resulted in considerable loss of life and financial damage to the people and added: Afghanistan's public, which is weary of the recent years' internal clashes, is ready to contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in their country, and the opportunity should be used to reach an understanding.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the resolve of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue assistance to Afghanistan's people, especially toward its reconstruction, and added: Nothing will satisfy Iran but the establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan. After the establishment of peace and stability, we are ready to take part in the spheres of health, education, expansion of roads, reconstruction of bridges, and other affairs related to Afghanistan's reconstruction. The president emphasized the issue of unity as the axis for the realization of peace and stability in Afghanistan and called for further activities of the international organizations and friendly countries and more serious coordination of Afghanistan's warring groups with these circles to establish peace and end the internal conflicts in that country.

Afghanistan's minister of state for foreign affairs briefed the president on the recent situation and political-military development in Afghanistan and said: Since there is a favorable basis for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, we hope to be able to achieve that goal with the help of friendly countries.

Mr. Lafra'i expressed his government's interest to expand ties with Iran. He added that during its visit the Afghan delegation had conducted useful negotiations with Iranian authorities on ways of enhancing the level of cooperation between the two countries.

Discusses Refugees With Minister

LD1706184695 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A report by our correspondent say that Mr. Najibollah Lafra'i, Afghanistan's minister state for foreign affairs, met Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi tonight. They discussed the repatriation of Afghan refugees to their country.

Mr. Besharati-Jahromi referred to Iran's serious and decisive compaign against the smuggling of narcotics and asked the Afghan Government to prevent transporting and smuggling of narcotics through the two countries' borders.

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

LD1806150695 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA — The visiting Afghan Foreign Minister, Najibollah Lafra'i here on Sunday [18 June] held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research, 'Abbas Maleki on recent developments in Kabul.

Lafra'i thanked Iran for its attention to the people and government of Afghanistan and said the educational facilities in his country have suffered heavy losses.

Maleki promised to help Afghanistan equip library of Kabul University and hold the second round of diplomatic training course for the staffers of Afghan Foreign Ministry.

Presents Message From Rabbani

LD1806202595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A message of the esteemed Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has been presented to esteemed Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A Foreign Ministry source told BAKHTAR that esteemed Afghan Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i, who is paying an official visit to Iran as head of a high- ranking Afghan delegation, met yeterday morning Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and conveyed the good wishes of President Rabbani to him and invited the Iranian president to visit Afghanistan at a suitable time. It was accepted with gratitude.

During the meeting talks were held on the military and political situation in Afghanistan, the positive developments taking place in the interest of peace and security in the country, as well as ways of resolving Afghanistan's problems and the problems of Afghan refugees in Iran.

According to another report, yesterday Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. A Foreign Ministry source said that during the meeting the two sides held talks on the need to expand relations between two

Muslim and neighborly countries; it was emphasized that practical steps should be taken to implement the provisions of the understanding notes signed by the authorities of the two countries. During this meeting the two sides agreed on setting up a joint economic commission. The report adds that the transit agreement signed by the countries in 1353 [1974] is valid and enforceable; the two sides reached an understanding to remove the existing obstacles as regards the implementation of the agreement.

According to another report, esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i yesterday met with esteemed Iranian Interior Minister Besharati in his office. During the meeting comprehensive talks were conducted on the voluntary repatriation of the Afghan refugees, which takes place under a tripartite agreement between Afghanistan, Iran, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [words indistinct]. They also agreed to cooperate in the fight against the production and trafficking of drugs.

'Ashura Exercises End on 'Successful Note'

LD1606155195 Tehran IRNA in English
1514 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Neynava (Tehran Prov.), June 16, IRNA — The grand 'Ashura' maneuvre ended on a successful note at 13:57 hours local time (09:27 GMT) today.

A total of 100,000 forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and basijis (volunteers) took part in the 3-day operations, whose final phase witnessed by the leader of the Islamic revolution was conducted at 10:00 hours today.

Four IRGC units took part in the maneuvre, whose first and second stages were held both on Wednesday [14 June] and Thursday.

Supreme commander of the armed forces, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, had said earlier on Thursday that the world should know that Iran was against aggression, corruption, tyranny and injustice but at the same time it will not submit to oppression.

Official Views Goals, Results

LD1706114795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], described the results of the 'Ashura maneuvers in a news conference today.

General Reza'i said: The objectives of the military exercise included the swift execution of operations, announcing a message of peace and friendship to the regional states, and preparing the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of global conspiracies.

He added: During the maneuvers we managed to gather 500,000 soldiers from all over Iran. Of those 100,000 were deployed in the 'Ashura exercises and took part in the operational theater.

The IRGC commander finally expressed his appreciation of all officials' cooperation in the maneuvers.

Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1606154895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1016 GMT 16 Jun 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, at Tehran University on 16 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] A senior U.S. official has said that they are deeply worried about Iran in the United States. Other U.S. statesmen have expressed the same feelings in different ways.

Here, I want to ask them: What is wrong with you? What is worrying you?

If you think that you must return to the previous circumstances and regain your domination and start making decisions once again, then I should say that the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran have put an end to all that.

I want to say to you loud and clear that, even if only one Iranian Muslim remains on this land, you will never again be allowed to dominate this country. [crowd chants in support]

The eminent leader said in his remarks this morning [as heard] that we are not domineering aggressors interested in interfering in other countries' affairs. However, we are also not prepared to allow any other country to dominate us. We all heard his remarks and this is something that the leader of this country and its other officials have repeatedly stated.

If the cause of concern for the Westerners, and in particular the Americans, is this issue then they will take this wish to the grave. In other words, they are waiting in vain and they will in fact continue to worry for ever.

If you want my opinion, then I suggest that you should try to change your ways if you really want to put an end to your worries. You should start to respect other nations and give credit to the other people of the world. After all, they are also human with certain rights and they are able to think and reason things forthemselves. They too have a program and a government and they too want to live.

What kind of reasoning is it whereby you think you can always dominate the world simply because you have the right of veto in certain international assemblies? You have to understand that this has all come to an end. The East has collapsed and a large part of the West has also been wiped out and the rest will follow soon.

Get rid of this line of thinking and try to reform yourselves to eliminate your worries. Try to accept that others also have certain rights. Try to live like other people in other parts of the world and have some respect for others.

Stop interfering in the affairs of other countries. You have interfered so much and each time you have failed but you still insist on carrying on in the same vein.

You think that Iran is going to give in to you just because you have imposed sanctions on us. This is sheer simplemindedness. During the last 15 years or so, this country has shown that all your ploys and conspiracies are doomed to failure.

As you know, at this very moment, the world's seven industrialized countries are meeting in Canada. They have invited Mr. Yeltsin to their meeting.

What is the reason for this invitation? The reason is abundantly clear to everyone. If the agenda for the meeting was economic and market issues and certain political topics, then why would they invite Mr. Yeltsin? He has been invited so that they may have the opportunity to make up for the debacle of Clinton's visit to Moscow.

In any case, you can be confident that such meetings and discussions cannot in any way harm the Islamic Republic of Iran. Sanctions will not achieve anything because we are experienced and hardened people who have no fear of them due to our faith in God and Islam.

Fortunately, today's world is not what it used to be. How many countries responded positively to the United States' call? Have you not had enough yet? Is it not time for you to reform yourselves and change your ways?

There is one more point I should make before time runs out. You may have heard a report published in the media. I wanted to check it out, and I have done so. I think I know why that report was published.

A Zionist representative in the Israeli Parliament said that a change of population was necessary in the occupied lands, and that the population make-up should change in favor of the Israelis, but that it was not good to kidnap children from various parts of the world and bring them over.

Our media immediately reported the news and I received the original report. You might be surprised to hear that in a period of over two years and using a gang of kidnappers they have abducted nearly 20,000 children aged three to seven, mostly from European countries. They have taken them to the occupied lands and are keeping them in a place about 30 km from Tel Aviv, to give Israel a change of population. According to regulations they have to stay there for 15 years and it is obvious what sort of training they will receive and what sort of children they will turn out to be.

I used the word abduction in one sense and used the Israeli representative's interpretation in another way. From where did they take the children? If the word is abduction — you know about the conditions in Europe — for it to apply, there must be some children among them who have proper parents. If the word is not abduction, and means taking them from places existing in Europe, that is worse.

It makes no difference to me whether it is kidnapping or not, or whether they take them from certain places that exist in Europe where they keep children in that manner and most or all of whom are illegitimate and whose fates are obvious. I call it an action contrary to human rights. You see that those who advocate human rights have not said a word because it is Israel, and the United States is its protector, and they must not say anything in such cases.

The Islamic Human Rights Committee strongly condemns such deeds and says that it is the worst way to treat children or human beings, particularly considering children's rights.

There are other issues but, because it is prayer time, I end my speech. [passage omitted]

Prices Given for Food, Consumer Goods

95LA0211A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Mar 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran (IRNA)—The retail prices on 11 consumer and food items increased on 18 Esfand [8 February] compared to 11 Esfand [1 February], while the price on one item decreased and the prices of 13 other items remained the same.

IRNA reports from Tehran that last week sugar, sugar cubes, imported cheese, manual and automatic powdered laundry detergent, and Bahareh 1/2-kilograms

[kg] of tea were being sold at the approved prices in major stores and retail shops, while domestic butter and solid vegetable shortening were being sold in some major stores and retail shops.

Last week prices increased 13.3 percent for split peas and garbanzo beans, 8.6 percent for chiti beans, 8.3 percent for lentils, 7.6 percent for mutton and red foreign tea, 7.1 percent for beef, 6.8 percent for Iranian rice, 5.3 percent for Iranian cheese, 5 percent for Thai rice and 4.7 percent for U.S. rice, while the price of eggs decreased 2.7 percent.

Retail Prices of 25 Food & Consumer Items on 11 and 18 Esfand

Item	11 Esfand	18 Esfand	Change (percent)
.5-kg Bahareh Iranian tea	1,900	1,900	Approved
.5-kg red foreign tea	6,500	7,000	7.6
Chicken	3,100	4,100	[figure not given]
Mutton	6,500	7,000	7.6
Beef	7,000	7,500	7.1
Average Iranian rice	2,900	3,100	6.8
U.S. rice	2,200	2,300	4.7
Number-1 Thai rice	2,000	2,100	5
Head sugar	1,210	1,210	Approved
Sugar cubes	1,260	1,260	Approved
Sugar	1,100	1,100	Approved
4.5-kg solid vegetable shortening	10,500	10,500	Approved
Lentils	2,400	2,600	8.3
Chiti beans	2,300	2,500	8.6
Garbanzo beans	3,000	3,300	12.3
Split peas	3,000	3,400	13.3
Imported cheese	2,300	2,300	Approved
Average Iranian cheese	5,400	5,600	5.3
Imported butter	14,000	14,000	
100 grams Pasteurized butter	650	650	Approved
1 can number-1 tomato paste	2,350	2,350	
1 can number-2 tomato paste	2,100	2,100	
eggs, 1 carton	2,600	2,600	2.7
480 grams manual laundry detergent powder	900	900	Approved
500 grams automatic laundry detergent powder	1,200	1,200	Approved

Textile Foreign Exchange Rules Exemption Urged

95LA0238H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Apr 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Engineer Seyyed Sadeq Al-e Yasin, director general of textile and clothing industries of the Industries Ministry, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division — If the Cabinet approves, this year the import of raw materials needed by the textile and clothing industries will be carried out without the transfer of foreign currency.**

In an interview with the economic correspondent of RESALAT, Engineer Seyyed Sadeq Al-e Yasin, the director general of textile and clothing industries of the Ministry of Industries, made this announcement and added: With the timely procurement of the raw materials for this sector of industries this year, the textile production units will produce more than 1 million tons of products this year.

Stating that "at the present, on the average 28 percent of the raw material needed by the textile industry can be procured through domestic production," he said: According to estimates, the raw materials needed for production in the textile and clothing industries, with the exception of shoes and leather, at full capacity is about 1 million tons, of which only about 276,000 tons are produced domestically.

Eng. Al-e Yasin added: Of this amount of domestically produced raw material, 100,000 tons is cotton, 20,000 tons is wool, 90,000 tons is polyacrylate, 16,000 tons is fibers and parsilon[as transliterated], and 50,000 tons is chemical polypropylene granules, which are used in textile industries.

Referring to the high added value and level of job creation of the textile industries, he said: On the average, the selling price of every kilogram of raw materials needed by this sector is no more than $2. If the material is converted to clothing, the average price will be more than $12.

Regarding the amount of idle capital in this sector, the director general of textile and clothing industries of the Ministry of Industries said: At the present time, the idle capital in the textile production units from the start of the payment of money to the delivery of raw materials is about six months. This has caused an increase in the production cost of these units.

Eng. Al-e Yasin emphasized: If imports without the transfer of foreign currency are allowed for this industry, this period of idle capital will be reduced to one-third.

He added: With the decrease in the period of idle capital and the increase in the financial circulation in these units, the production costs in this industry will be reduced.

In response to the question of "whether the Ministry of Industries has set ratified prices for the sale of textile products," Eng. Al-e Yasin said: At the present, studies have been completed regarding the setting of the selling price of the products of three large textile, polyacrylate, and fibers and parsilon factories, and those prices will soon be announced by the Producers and Consumers Protection Organization.

Regarding the procurement of raw materials for the shoe production units, the director general of textile industries of the Industries Ministry said: At the present time, these units need about 60,000 tons of "DOP" [expansion not given] and about 70,000 tons of "PVC" [polyvinyl chloride] for the production of goods at the nominal capacity. At the present in the country, only about 40,000 tons of "PVC" and about 30,000 tons of "POC" [as published] are produced. We hope this year the Cabinet will agree to the import of these materials without the transfer of foreign currency.

He mentioned the level of exports in the textile sector in the past 15 months to be $164 million and said: If the raw materials needed in this sector are imported, it is projected that this year $250 million in textile products will be exported.

Fifty-Thousand Autos Said Produced Yearly

95LA0241E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division — By the end of the current year [20 March 1996], 90,000 passenger automobiles will be manufactured by domestic companies.

RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent reports that Minister of Industries Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh announced this yesterday (Tuesday) at a press conference. He added: According to the latest estimates, the annual domestic demand for passenger automobiles is now 110,000 to 120,000. With the implementation of programs to increase production, by 1375 [21 March 1996-20 March 1997] this need will be met entirely through domestic production.

The minister of industries said: Last year 25,000 Peykan passenger automobiles were produced, and this year this figure will reach 50,000 units, showing growth of 100 percent.

He mentioned the cessation of production of the Renault 5 in the producer country. He said: The production of this type of vehicle stopped in the country, but the Ministry of Industries has begun to build them again as the Saipa 5 through the **Sazeh Gostar** Company. Late this year, with the construction of its various parts, up to 87 percent of that vehicle will be built on a domestic mass production line with an annual capacity of 25,000 units.

Eng. Ne'matzadeh added: Already 10 percent of the parts needed for the Nesim and Saba passenger automobiles are being produced inside the country, and by next year this figure will increase to 80 percent.

He mentioned the production policy in the nation's vehicle industry. He said: Currently agreements are given to build vehicles inside the country on the condition that 40 percent of the parts be made domestically. In the last few years, 37 agreements in principle have been issued for this, of which more than 30 were for the production of passenger automobiles. Of these, only one is actually being carried out.

Eng. Ne'matzadeh noted that this year based on measures taken by the Economic Council, the production of passenger automobiles is to be done using foreign exchange earned from exports. He said: For this reason, this year producing factories set the selling price of their vehicles with a percentage difference from the current market price, and they deposit the difference in price into the account of the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization.

Our correspondent asked the minister of industries: Since domestic production of passenger automobiles does not meet existing need, won't setting the vehicle sale price based on the market cause the prices of other goods needed by consumers to increase? He answered: This is an economic debate. The minister of industries, on behalf of industry, is in charge of production. In general the Economic Council has come to the conclusion that if it does otherwise, in addition to increasing false demand, conditions will be created for many abuses.

For this reason, to eliminate the effects of price increases and goods on each other, we must make the nation's economic policies in such a way that the people will have a desire to make long-term production investments. This was pursued in the First and Second Five-Year Plans.

The minister of industries discussed the high finished cost of domestically produced automobiles. He said: The finished cost of these vehicles has increased because some of the parts needed by domestic vehicle producers are imported C.K.D. [expansion not given] because of the increase in the price of foreign exchange and the increase in current expenses.

Increased Industrial Investment Required for National Revenue Growth

For national revenues to increase attention must be given to industrial investment and production. This policy is being pursued in the Second Five-Year Plan.

On the other hand, RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent reports that yesterday (Tuesday) Eng. Mohammad Reza Na'matzadeh, minister of industries, announced this at a press conference during a visit by Dr. Hasan Habibi, first vice-president of the republic, to Iran's first Food Industries Research Center at the Behruz Food Products Production Company. He added: To reach this goal the nation's financial resources, especially the nation's banking system, must pay more attention to industrial production. Otherwise, capital and manpower in the country will be active in nonproducing sectors.

He added: Per capita national income is directly related to industry's share in the national economy. In the past this share in the nation's economy was quite insignificant, but during the First Five-Year Plan, with the implementation of special policies in this regard, industry's share increased from 10.5 to 16.5 percent of GNP. This growth must also continue in the future.

Eng. Ne'matzadeh noted that last year the nation's food industry exports grew 150 percent compared to 1373. He said: In the First Five-Year Plan, industrial sector exports grew from $70 million to $500 million. In the first 10 months of last year [21 March 1994-20 January 1995], the industrial sector had $600 million in exports.

Eng. Forutan, executive director of the Behruz Food Industries Company, said: This center's production is 20,000 tons, 30 percent of which goes to the Persian Gulf nations and Central Asia.

Pakistan

Bhutto Addresses U.S. Ties, Karachi Situation

BK1706164495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said Pakistan and the United States have a general understanding on many issues and are cooperating in various fields. Speaking informally to reporters at Parliament House this evening, she said Pakistan and the United States are both fighting against terrorism and narcotics and share identical views on Kashmir. She added that massive U.S. investment is coming to Pakistan and progress has been made on the return of military equipment sent to the United States for repair.

Answering a question about the recent statement by a U.S. State Department spokesman regarding the registration of a treason case against opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the democratic process in Pakistan, the prime minister said there is no threat to the democratic process in Pakistan. She said Pakistan and the United States enjoy a common perception on security issues and we should not overreact to the U.S. statement. She said it can be described as a difference of opinion. Benazir Bhutto made it clear that the law treats everyone equally and it is up to the courts to decide upon charges filed in a case.

Answering various questions, the prime minister described the new budget as a lucky break for the people and said nothing more was possible under present circumstances. She added that despite resource constraints, the government has proposed the lowest possible taxes because it does not want to burden the common man. On the increase in the price of petroleum products, she said the 5 percent increase is smaller than the increase proposed to the government. Benazir Bhutto said the country's economy has improved to a great extent due to the government's prudent policies over the last two years.

Answering a question, the prime minister said the IMF wants Pakistan to introduce several measures for fiscal discipline, including reducing the budget deficit to 4 percent of GDP, reducing national debt and deficit financing, and strengthening general sales tax system, but we cannot work according to IMF suggestions.

Replying to a question about the Karachi situation, the prime minister said a meeting was held at the Presidency to review the situation. She said the government has adopted a balanced policy on Karachi. She said: We are not in favor of nonpolitical solutions and our doors are open for dialogue. She said, however, that the government is facing armed resistance from extremists of the [Muhajir Qaumi Movement's] Altaf Group. She said a terrorist belonging to the Altaf group was arrested on the scene while shooting at the Karachi superintendent of police. In another shooting incident at the Sindh Revenue Board, she said, three people belonging to the Altaf Group were identified as the culprits. She said it is felt that the Altaf Group militants are receiving instructions from Altaf Hussain in London to attack law enforcement personnel and government property.

Press Views U.S. Reaction to Nawaz Sharif Case

Daily Addresses U.S. 'Surprise'

BK1706091995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "US concern over treason charge"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, expressed "surprise" over the decision of Benazir Bhuto's government to lodge a case of treason against former PM [Prime Minister] Nawaz Sharif. It is significant that this is the first time ever that a public acknowledgement of hitherto privately expressed US concerns by prominent US officials over deepening political polarisation in Pakistan has been made. Burns, reading from a prepared text, added that "we encourage both sides, both the government and the opposition, to engage in political dialogue... we hope that for the sake of the Pakistani people, as well as the Americans who are there, the level of violence in Karachi can be reduced." According to diplomatic observers in Washington the Clinton administration wanted to send a message to Ms Bhutto's government after it had remained silent on more than a 100 cases against the opposition to abandon confrontational politics at home. The sharp and prompt reaction of the Foreign Office was perfectly justified. Its claims that no country in the world, however friendly, has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another was a principally correct stance to have taken. It is, indeed, unfortunate that successive Pakistani governments have cut corners in an effort to appease American sensibilities. It was after all Ms Bhutto's government that extradited Ramzi Yusuf with undue haste and without the due process of law as a prelude to her visit to the US this year. It is extremely important that our politicians try to look at their country's self interest as opposed to easily aroused American sensibilities. The ideal situation, however, would have been if no occasion had arisen which would have galvanised the American administration to issue the statement.

There is little doubt that the increasing polarisation between the government and the Opposition has led to the endorsement of policies which are determined not by the interest of the nation but by the need for scoring points and settling scores. The Opposition, as has become a tradition in Pakistani politics, is always on the dock. And the government seeks to ensure not only the economic demise of Opposition members but also their political demise. Hence the need to embroil prominent members of the Opposition on charges of corruption and, in the present instance, on the most heinous of all charges, treason. The Opposition too has to bear the burden for the impasse; and not only because of the anti-Opposition policies it endorsed when in power. Pakistani oppositions have always tried to unseat democratically elected governments through encouraging an agitational approach. Thus if Mr Nawaz Sharif started the Tehrik-e-Nijat movement [deliverance movement] Ms Bhutto's Long March was based on the same ethos. There is little doubt that both the government and the Opposition need to put their own house in order. The fact that in Pakistan governments have an unchecked hold on all levels of power in marked contrast to the Opposition the onus of holding out an olive branch rests with the government. But the Opposition will also have to desist from displaying a high handed attitude like the one it exhibited during the budget session. There is also little doubt that the daily killings in Karachi cast a dark shadow about the stability of the government. The recent attack on the Sindh Government Revenue Department District Central Registrar's office in Karachi where nineteen people were killed is part of an ongoing process of violence that has gripped the city for several years. The need for a political dialogue to help ease ethnic tension in the financial capital of the country maintains its urgency. The government, while rightfully expressing indignation over interference in our internal affairs by a government "no matter how friendly" should set its own house in order and undertake a serious 'dialogue' to help end the politics of confrontation.

Editorial Cites U.S. 'Interference'

BK1906092295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 19 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Swayed by emotions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States' reaction to the treason case against opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has rubbed raw patches on those who deem it as an outright interference in Pakistan's domestic affairs. It has also kicked up a lively debate in the country. The opposition is distinctly absent from this debate because it perceives Washington's expression of concern as a friendly gust of wind for its sagging sails. It has conveniently chosen to ignore the obvious implication: that the United States has yet again voiced its views on a subject that falls outside the domain of diplomacy. Hence the impropriety of it. Indeed, one opposition leader has appeared as gauche as to say publicly that had the State Department spokesman uttered his words in Pakistan, he would have been arrested. This statement is reflective of a peculiar mind-set that seeks to trivialise vital issues. No less significant is the fact that the statement indicates the precariousness of the government-opposition equation. When your own house is divided against itself, outsiders are bound to take advantage. Unfortunately, this truism has yet to rub off onto both the government and opposition politicians. Also, the statement from Washington has once again found us groping in the dark. When it comes to understanding the actions of other states, we seek explanations by looking through the prism of emotions. The fact is that "when states act, their actions are not always logical and ideologically consistent, unless one is prepared to see them in the light of the state's self-interest". Clearly, there are problem areas like Kashmir, nuclear proliferation and the economy itself that continue to place Pak-US ties under some friction. Lack of stability in Pakistan, which largely emanates from perpetual sniping between the government and the opposition, only serves to heighten American apprehensions. Telling the only superpower in the world to mind its own business is easier said than done.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's assertion that Pak-American relations are strong enough to absorb the apparently minor hiccup in Washington is convincing enough. Here she speaks with a confidence that comes from knowing the Americans much better compared to her most compatriots, especially her adversaries: She has had a great visit to the United States recently; the evidence of how successful it has been is now coming to the fore. She should be able to assuage the latest misgiving in Washington as well. That said, it is important for the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government to rethink its present strategy of pushing the opposition into a corner. The prime minister says the case against Mian Sahib will not be withdrawn even if there is a reaction from a hundred states. One hopes this is merely in a fit of pique.

Leghari, Bhutto Review 'Spurt' in Karachi Violence

BK1706141495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A meeting was held in the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency] this morning between President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to review the situation in Karachi after the latest spurt in incidents of violence and terrorism in the city. Senior civil and military officers also attended the meeting.

The meeting took note of the incidents of terrorism in Karachi, including the attack on the sub-registrar's office of KMC [Karachi Municipal Corporation] located in the Liaqatabad supermarket on Thursday last [15 June] in which 10 people were killed and the attack today on SP [superintendent of police], Liaqatabad, by a terrorist who was caught when the police party returned fire.

The meeting was informed that during the last one month 15 personnel of law enforcing agencies were killed and the police stations of New Karachi, Zaman Town, Taimuria, Clifton were attacked with rocket launchers by terrorists. The APC's [armored personnel carriers] in Pak Colony and Orangi Town police stations were attacked with rocket launchers during this period by terrorists. The meeting was informed that the suspects in these acts of terrorism were members of [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]-Altaf Group. Rehan alias Kaana and Arshad alias Ketto are all members of the Altaf Group and so are Fahim Commando and Farooq Dada, who are suspected of the firing of rocket launchers on police stations. The meeting was informed that most of the killings of law enforcing personnel and attacks on government supporters by the Altaf Group have been master minded by Farooq Dada, Fahim Commando, and Dr. Imran Farooq. Altaf Group terrorists were recently arrested in Peshawar with rocket launchers and grenades.

The meeting was briefed on steps being taken by the government to protect the people of Karachi from the terrorists of Altaf Group.

Radio Reports on Karachi Shooting Incidents

BK1606155595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five people, including a police official, were killed in shooting incidents in different parts of Karachi today. A bandit who was trying to snatch a car was killed in an encounter with the police. The police arrested a criminal after a scuffle and recovered a stolen car from him.

Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, the president of the National Integration Council, has condemned the acts of terrorism in Karachi and urged the government to take more effective steps to eliminate terrorism. According to the PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, he said the residents of Karachi are peace-loving people, but the terrorists are spreading lawlessness. Talking to newspersons at Mali near Thatta today, he said that illegal arms are being smuggled into the country via the border areas of Khokhropar, Umarkot, and Abaro and the government should stop the smuggling of these arms.

Foreign Minister Fears Indian Attack in Kashmir

BK1706140095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore (PPI) — Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali feared that India might attack the Kashmir refugee camps in Azad Kashmir considering those to be training camps and added that if India did so it would have to face serious consequences.

He was delivering a lecture on 'future of Indo-Pak relations with special reference to Kashmir dispute and national security' under the auspices of Forum for International Relations Strategic and Technical Studies of Punjab Club at Administrative Staff College here on Friday night [16 June].

He said that due to the pressure on domestic front, the Indian government could commit any irresponsible act as it had been held hostage to the Hindus oligarchy in the north and Bharatiya Janata Party in the rest of the country. It was also facing a tough resistance in the Held Kashmir, he added.

The Minister also referred to a strong linkage between the situation in the Held Kashmir and that at Karachi and said that the number of killings of the personnels of the Indian security forces in the Held Kashmir was reflected in the death toll in Karachi. He said that every time India was in difficulty in Kashmir and number of killings in Karachi by the terrorists rose. He said that Karachi was not only a part of Pakistan but Pakistan itself and this government and every government in Pakistan would put everything at stake to save it. He said that Karachi problem was not created by the people of Karachi but the terrorist element is responsible for it.

On a question about the third option in the solution of Kashmir dispute, the Minister said that such an idea was floated by the Indian government to dilute the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir. He pointed towards the hidden hand behind the move of third option.

On a question about any possibility of mediation by a third party, the Minister said: "We are for the mediation as such efforts had proved successful in the case of Indus Basin Treaty and the dispute of Ran of Kutchh. In the former World Bank played a mediatory role while the International Court of Justice was the body whose verdict was honoured by both India and Pakistan despite the fact that it was not binding on them to do so. 'Similarly, we have asked the US President, the UN Secretary-General and a number of others to mediate between India and Pakistan but uptill now India has rejected all such moves,' he added.

On a question about the US State Department's concern over the treason case against the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister said that the Foreign Office had already issued a policy statement on the issue which was enough to give government's standpoint on the issue. On the question of bilateral talks with India, he said that Indian Foreign Minister had recently expressed his willingness for unconditional talks without any prior agenda which amounted to going backward. 'Our standpoint is that there should be meaningful talks on jointly settled Indo-Pak agenda and not on that of India alone', he said.

Kashmir Shrine Said Destroyed by Fire

BK1706154795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred 21 more Kashmiris and burnt several houses and shops. About 12 people were martyred and several injured when Indian troops fired at the village of (Kuram Sahrana) in Bijbiara area. One person was martryed in each of the following places: Desu in the Kulgam area, Mastipura, and Achanbal. Five bodies, including those of two women, were recovered in Srinagar, Kupwara, and Baramula. Apparently they had been made victims of custodial killings. The troops also killed a young man after arresting him in Kupwara. The occupation forces burnt several houses and plundered a number of shops in Sumdo, Sonabadi and Kazigund. Eight Indian troops were killed either due to land mines or when ambushed by freedom fighters at Renawali and Nawanbazar. Lawyers in Baramula boycotted the courts and held demonstrations over the arrest of Mohammad

Ashraf, president of the district bar association. Many families, especially from Kupwara and Baramula, have been forced to take refuge in Azad Kashmir due to the killings and repression by Indian troops.

In occupied Kashmir, a shrine of venerable saint Hazrat Alhaj Kauser Afghan Mojaddid at Bandipur in Baramula District has been destroyed in a fire. A two-storey building, a library, and a waiting room situated in the shrine complex have been destroyed.

Official Expresses Grief Over Burning

BK1906044495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Azad Kashmir President Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan has expressed sincere grief and sorrow over the destruction of yet another shrine and attached mosque in Bandipur in occupied Kashmir by Indian troops. In a statement in Islamabad, he pointed out that such repeated nefarious acts by Indian troops negate the so-called secularism preached by Indian leaders and their lofty claims about democracy. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan stressed it is now high time the world community came forward to protect the religious places of the Muslims in occupied Kashmir and in India itself. In this context, he said the Organization of the Islamic Conference should take note of the matter in view of its religious importance.

Mohammad Afzal Khan, the federal minister for Kashmir and northern areas, has assured continued economic, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiri people struggling to achieve their right of self-determination according to UN resolutions. Talking to a group of Kashmiri students in Islamabad yesterday, the federal minister called upon the world community to take note of the Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir.

Editorial Views Second Indigenous Satellite

95AS0392B Karachi JANG in Urdu 28 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Completion of the Second Satellite"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is a matter for gratification that Pakistan has completed building its second multipurpose satellite and will send it into space in the early part of next year. The satellite carries sensitive cameras which will help investigation in many fields. Pakistan has already launched its first satellite, Badr 1, with the help of China and this will be Pakistan's second satellite. At present India and Israel are devoting unusual attention to scientific and technical fields and it is obvious that they are using their satellites for espionage. This spying by satellite makes it necessary that we become more vigilant and the most practical way is by advancing in space technology. It is therefore a cause for rejoicing that Pakistan has been able to build a second satellite by utilizing its own resources and the capability and intelligence of Pakistani experts. However we should intensify our efforts in the field of space technology and pay special attention to the better utilization of our satellites for the protection of our high national interests and discover the methods by which we will be able to use these satellites to foil the machinations of countries who wish to harm our objectives.

Article Claims Government Torture of Mohajirs

95AS0392D Karachi AMN in Urdu 29 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Gohar Jamal: "Need For a Political Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the unprecedented victory of Mohajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] candidates in the 1993 general elections, we thought that a new day had dawned. It appears, however, that even a tiny glimmer of light looks like a strong beacon to those who live in a dark tunnel and we now realize that [to have had such a hope] was foolishness on our part. Contrary to our expectations, the operation [against MQM] was intensified and the arrest of even elected assembly members became a daily occurrence. Thousands of MQM members still languish in jails while prime minister Bhutto continues to say that there are no political prisoners in Pakistan. She reminds one of a mouse riding on the back of an elephant who thinks that the space he occupies constitutes the entire universe of which he is the master.

Policemen and rangers brought from outside have proved incapable of maintaining law and order because, in order to restore order, the government has to demonstrate its sincerity and this task falls to statesmen and politicians. Unfortunately, such flowers do not bloom in the thorn-beds of so-called democratic governments. Conditions are worsening and it appears that the government and its agencies have determined the course of events and the present trend will continue. Living conditions are hard in Sindh's urban areas and hardly a day passes without robbery, arson, political assassination, terrorism, the illegal and unconstitutional siege of areas with a Mohajir majority, the arrest of Mohajir youth, shots directly fired at Mohajirs or some other incident of oppression and violence taking place.

The inhuman treatment of mohajirs which continues in Karachi and Hyderabad is unprecedented in world history. Armies have never been sent before to fight against their own patriotic countrymen. Mohajirs are patriotic and well wishers of Pakistaan and they have up to now patiently borne the cruelties inflicted on them by the government and its agencies. The Mohajirs have been pushed until their backs are to the wall and they are being provoked by constantly increasing opprression. A new story surfaces with each new incident but those who are occupying the seats of power either are ignorant of the brewing storm or deliberately choose to ignore it. There is no one now who can halt the storm,

The laws of the country and the constitution are being contravened in Sindh's urban areas; almost daily, entire Mohajir communities are surrounded without any search warrants; innocent young Mohajirs are made to take off their shirts, blindfolded and herded into open areas as though an identification parade is being held. I regard the situation as very serious. Sindh's problem is basically a political one and will have to be solved politically. If force is used repeatedly, the situation will grow worse.

Sri Lanka

President Issues Human Rights Project Regulations

BK1706091695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has issued directions and regulation-seven of the emergency establishment of Human Rights Task Force regulation. Under the president's directive every member of the Armed Forces and the police should assist the task force and any person authorized by the task force in the exercize of its powers, duties, and functions.

The fundamental rights of persons arrested or detained are to be respected under these regulations. No person shall be arrested or detained under any emergency regulation or the Prevention of Terrorism Act except in accordance with the law and proper procedures, any, by a person who is authorized by law to make such arrests or order such detention. The person making the arrest or detention would identify himself to the person arrested or any relative or friend of such person upon inquiry be made by name and rank. Every person arrested or detained should be informed of the reason for the arrest. A receipt should be issued when making the arrest or detention by stating the name and rank of arresting officer and other details. When a child under 12 years or a woman is sought to be arrested or detained, the person of their choice should be allowed to accompany such child or women who are sought to be arrested or detained, should be placed in the custody of women's unit of the armed forces or the police force or in the custody of another women military cell inform as early as possible in any case within four days of such arrest. [sentence as heard]

Germany Condemns LTTE for Breaking Truce

BK1806074095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Germany has condemned the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for unilaterally breaking a 14-week truce with the government. This is an outstanding example of terrorism. The LTTE is responsible for the new bloodshed. These comments were made by Willy Wimmer of the foreign affairs committee of the German Federal Parliament. He is leading a three-member team to Sri Lanka.

The German delegation stated that the German Government was against the use of force to achieve political ends. Mr. Wimmer referring to the country's human rights record said that it has improved greatly under the People's Alliance Government compared to that of the previous regime. Therefore, he said there was no need for Germany to give asylum to Sri Lankans who went there. The delegation (?also) called at the Foreign Ministry for official talks chaired by acting foreign minister, D.P. Wickremasinghe. The acting minister briefed the German team on the peace process initiated by the government and conveyed its appreciation for the understanding and support extended by the German Government to the island. The German parliamentarians were interested to be briefed on regional cooperation in Asia with specific reference to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

Troops Withdraw After 'Successful Operation'

BK1606143195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 16 (AFP) — Government troops late Friday [16 June] pulled out from a northern town they had captured from Tamil rebels following a "successful" operation against the militants, military officials said.

One soldier was killed and another wounded when hundreds of troops from the main Palaly military base in northern Jaffna peninsula launched a dawn raid to overrun nearby Atchuvely town, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

"Troops having successfully completed the operation returned to their forward defences," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe. Transmissions from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) indicated they had suffered six dead and 26 wounded, Munasinghe said.

LTTE guerrillas, who held the town, fled the area together with hundreds of civilians in the face of advancing troops, Munasinghe said.

Troops recovered only two LTTE bodies from the town, he added.

Security forces launched the attack on Atchuvely in a bid to "kill as many Tigers as possible" and destroy several LTTE positions from where rebels had been harassing the Palaly base with frequent mortar barrages, officials said.

In a simultaneous strike, airforce planes bombed two LTTE targets in nearby Velvettiturai, Munasinghe said. LTTE casualties in the aerial attack were not immediately known.

However, Tamil sources said that airforce planes had first bombed Atchuvely, forcing hundreds of civilians to flee the area, before ground troops launched the offensive on the town.

Munasinghe denied there had been any other aerial strikes in addition to the bombardment of LTTE targets in Velvettiturai.

The pull-out by troops from Atchuvely town was similar to many previous military offensives in the region when security forces eventually returned to base after destroying LTTE positions during raids inside rebel-held territory.

Friday's military strike came just hours after dozens of civilians in the LTTE-controlled Jaffna peninsula, protested against aerial, artillery and navy shelling of northern areas.

The protesters, including Hindu and Roman Catholic leaders, urged President Chandrika Kumaratunga to order a halt to the shelling of "civilian areas" in the north, Tamil sources said.

More than 800 people have been killed since the LTTE ended a three-month truce to renew its violent campaign for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils. The LTTE runs a de-facto administration in Jaffna.

Soldiers Killed in Ambush; Rebels Issue Statement

*BK1906060695 Hong Kong AFP in English
0432 GMT 19 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, June 19 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in northeastern Sri Lanka Monday [19 June], killing at least two and wounding another 14, a military spokesman here said.

Gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired automatic assault rifles at the patrol at the Janapakura village in the Weli Oya region, the spokesman said adding that they were awaiting details.

The latest bloodletting came a day after LTTE gunmen shot dead eight troopers at the eastern village of Arunapura amid fears of fresh attacks against Muslim civilians living in the eastern province.

The government has anounced plans to reinforce paramilitary homeguards by another 1,000 men and stepped up security for the 60,000-strong Muslim village of Kattankudy following threats purported to be from the LTTE.

However, the LTTE's local area commander Sunday denied that they asked the Muslims to vacate the village. The LTTE's London office issued a one-page statement Monday accusing the government of trying to drive a wedge between Tamils and Muslims.

"The ground reality is that the government is today losing control over the eastern province.

"This is therefore a malicious attempt to salvage the situation, especially at a time when Muslims are ... angered by the government's decision to renew diplomatic links with Israel," the LTTE statement said.

The Colombo government has denied trying to establish diplomatic ties with Israel which in the mid-eighties helped Sri lanka in its fight against Tamil rebels seeking to establish an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam.

The LTTE has also been accused of attacking hundreds of Muslims and Sinhalese living in the island's northeast where they want to establish their independent state.

Muslim Villagers Said Armed Against LTTE

*BK1806114795 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0910 GMT 18 Jun 95*

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 18 Jun — Muslim villagers in the eastern Sri Lanka are being armed and 'People's Committees' are being set up to meet heightened threats of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks against them.

Military sources said up to 5,000 volunteers are likely to be armed in these villages in the Batticaloa District where threats by the Tigers were reported. Despite these threats sent in through letters by the terrorists, these communities living at Kathankudy and Eravur villages were refusing to move, but, were ready to organize to defend their villages.

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